**Student Notes:**

**Summarizing Informational Texts**

A **summary** is a short retelling of the main ideas or events of a passage. A summary is written in your own words and not in the author’s.

A good summary lists only the important details from the passage and presents ideas/events in the order in which they appear. A summary should not include opinions or judgments.  
  
When you read, ask yourself these guiding questions:

* What are the author’s main points in this passage?
* How would I explain what this passage is about to a friend or teacher?

**Practice Passages:**

Imagine this: a brand-new city built to house more than 1 million people. The city includes everything modern life requires—movie theaters, museums, and sky scrapers are ready for businesses and apartments. Trees line the streets, and neighborhoods and parks await. Sounds like a nice place to live, right?   
  
Well, such a place exists today. The city of Kangbashi, China was built in 2004. Building the sprawling city cost the Chinese government $161 billion. There was only one problem. Hardly anyone moved in. Today, Kangabashi is mostly deserted—only around 30,000 people currently live there.   
  
While many of the homes and buildings in the city have sold, the people who own them do not live there. The museum and opera house are only open twice a year. Those who work in Kangbashi make the 40-minute commute from the nearby city of Dongsheng. As many have said, Kangbashi is a ghost town, only without the ghosts.  
  
1 Source: http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1975336,00.html