Principal:
1: most important, consequential, or influential: CHIEF <the principal ingredient> <the region's principal city> 2: of, relating to, or constituting principal or a principal.

So a principal square root is the positive root.

A principle is an abstract object which signifies a point (or points) of probability on a subject (e.g., the principle of creativity), which allows for the concrete formation of rule or norm or law by (human) interpretation of the phenomena (events) that can be created. Principles are a form of generalization which are a basic neurological process that arises from induction. Humans use these generalizations for predict or explain, thereby increasing evolutionary survivability. The rules, norms and laws depend on and co-create a particular context to formulate. A principle is the underlying part (or spirit) of the basis for an evolutionary normative or formative development, which is the object of subjective experience and/or interpretation. For example, the ethics of someone may be seen as a set of principles that the individual obeys in the form of rules, as guidance or law. These principles thus form the basis for such ethics.