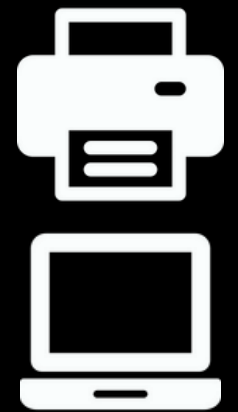


# CLOSE READING

## with Mystery Pictures



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Christmas Around the World

Christmas is celebrated by nearly two billion people all over the world. However, Christmas traditions, customs, and celebrations differ vastly, or greatly, depending on where you are located.

In some places, Christmas celebrations start early. For example, in France and Holland, Christmas celebrations commence on December 6. This is called St. Nicholas Day. The day is a day to remember St. Nicholas for his generosity and kindness. Children receive little gifts to kick off the holidays. In Germany, Christmas markets are constructed in the main city squares. In Australia, beaches are filled with people weeks before Christmas. Many countries celebrate Christmas with picnics and singing Christmas carols weeks before Christmas. However, some places, such as Italy and Ukraine, celebrate Christmas differently.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Christmas Around the World

Directions: Read the passage. Then, answer the questions. Use your answers here to help you color the mystery picture.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Read Questions

1	In which country would you likely see shoes on the windowsills waiting to be filled?	Brazil	Australia	Holland
---	--	--------	-----------	---------

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Christmas Around the World

Christmas is celebrated by nearly two billion people all over the world. However, Christmas traditions, customs, and celebrations differ vastly depending on where you are located.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Christmas Around the World

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Read Questions

6	What is the meaning of the word <u>vastly</u> as used in the passage?	Greatly	Barely	Intensely
7	What caused the people of Ukraine to celebrate the New Year instead of Christmas?	GREEN	WHITE	LIGHT BLUE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Christmas Around the World

Christmas is celebrated by nearly two billion people all over the world. However, Christmas traditions, customs, and celebrations differ vastly depending on where you are located.

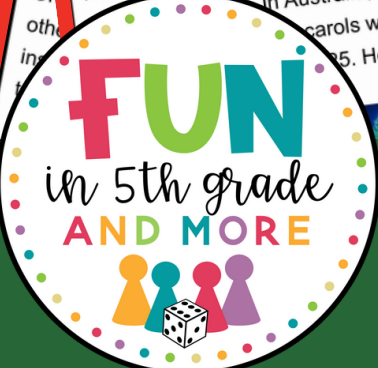
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Christmas Around the World Answer Key

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions. Use the answers for each question to determine which color to use. (Ex. If your answer to question 2 has the color "pink" under it, color all of the number 2s pink.)

1	10	1	1	1	9	9	7	7	10	7	10
1	1	1	10	1	5	5	7	7	7	7	7
10	1	1	1	5	3	5	7	7	7	7	7
1	1	1	1	4	5	3	5	4	7	10	7
1	10	1	6	4	4	4	4	6	7	7	7
1	1	9	6	3	6	3	6	6	7	10	10
10	1	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	7	7	7
1	5	5	9	9	9	9	9	9	5	5	10
1	4	5	3	5	3	5	3	5	4	7	7
6	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	6
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8



# CHRISTMAS

# Digital & Print

## DIFFERENTIATED TO 3 LEVELS

**#3 Informational**

**Christmas Around the World**

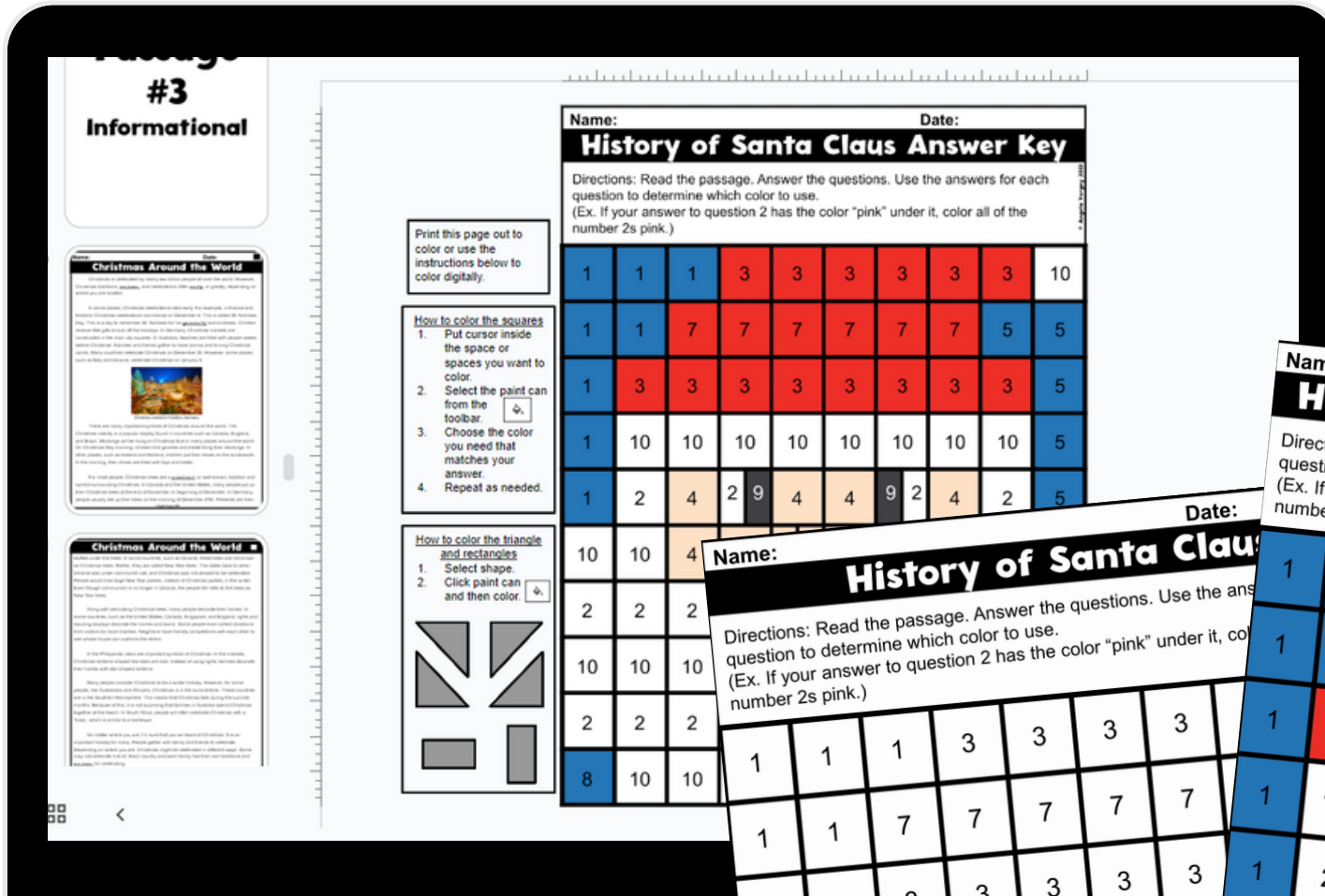
Print this page out to color or use the instructions below to color digitally.

**How to color the squares**

- Put cursor inside the space or spaces you want to color.
- Select the paint can from the toolbar.
- Choose the color you need that matches your answer.
- Repeat as needed.

**How to color the triangle and rectangles**

- Select shape.
- Click paint can and then color.



**AUDIO INCLUDED**

**History of Santa Claus Answer Key**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions. Use the answers for each question to determine which color to use. (Ex. If your answer to question 2 has the color "pink" under it, color all of the number 2s pink.)

1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	10		
1	1	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	5		
1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5		
1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5		
1	2	4	2	9	4	4	9	2	4	2	5
10	10	4									
2	2	2									
10	10	10									
2	2	2									
8	10	10									

**History of Santa Claus Answer Key**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions. Use the answers for each question to determine which color to use. (Ex. If your answer to question 2 has the color "pink" under it, color all of the number 2s pink.)

1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	10	
1	1	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	
1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	
1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	
1	2	4	2	9	4	4	9	2	4	2	5
10	10	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	10	10
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
10	10	10	10	6	6	6	6	10	10	10	10
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	

**EVERY SET INCLUDES**

**1 FICTION TEXT**

**2 NONFICTION TEXTS**

**MYSTERY PIC FOR EACH**

# Passage 1-Fiction

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Train Set

On a cold winter's eve not too long ago, there was a little elf working all on his own in the light of the moon. The steady drumming of hammer on wood and the quiet humming of the little elf who knew he could....

"What am I doing?" Ewold yelled at himself. "I've been working on this toy for an eternity! I can't get it quite right. How will I ever finish in time?"

"Be patient, my dear Ewold!" a hearty voice said as it broke the silence in the empty room.

Ewold turned around, startled. "Oh, hi. I didn't see you there. I'm sorry, I know I shouldn't be complaining, especially not this close to the holidays," he confessed to his boss and quickly got back to work.

Ewold felt him come from behind and squeeze his shoulder in encouragement. He then turned toward the door and reassured him, "Ho, ho, ho! You'll get it eventually, my friend. Natalia is one special girl. She'll love and appreciate whatever you make her. Just give it some time. Anything worth doing well takes time."

"Time," Ewold said as he stared at the enormous countdown clock on the back wall. "Time is a gift I don't have right now. There are only two more days till Christmas. This toy has to be completed before then! Natalia can't wait until next Christmas, can't let her down!"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Determined, Ewold mustered up his energy and turned back to his wooden train set. After several hours of chiseling and hammering, Ewold's eyes drooped with exhaustion, and he decided to hit the sack. It was better to be fully rested for work than tired and slow.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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"Time," Ewold said as he stared at the enormous countdown clock affixed to the back wall. "Time is a gift I don't have right now. There are only two more days till Christmas, and this toy has to be completed before then. Natalia can't wait until next Christmas, can't let her down!"

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Train Set

Directions: Read the passage. Then, answer the questions. When finished, use your answers here to help you color the mystery grid.

### 1st Read Questions

1	Which of the following events happened first?	The other elves admire Ewold's work.	Ewold reaches for the paintbrush to paint the train green.	Ewold receives a visit from his boss.
		PEACH	WHITE	LIGHT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Train Set Writing Prompt

How does the character of Ewold change throughout the story? Use specific details from the story to support your response.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Train Set Answer Key

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions. Use the answers for each question to determine which color to use. (Ex. If your answer to question 2 has the color "pink" under it, color all of the number 2s pink.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Train Set

### 2nd Read Questions

2	What is the meaning of the word "eternity"?	Read the sentence from the passage. "The workshop grew quiet as the dark night embraced the North Pole."	Personification	Hyperbole
3	Which best describes the figurative language used?	Which type of figurative language is used?	WHITE	RED
4	In the passage, "Ewold's steady hammering on the last piece of paintbrush..."	Which of the following is an antonym for the word <b>resolved</b> as used in the passage?	Determined	Refused
5	What is the meaning of the word "stroke" as used in the passage?	Which best states the meaning of the idiom "hit the sack" as used in the passage?	WHITE	RED
6	Who can you identify as the boss that reassures Ewold?	To hit the ball with a bat	To take a break	
7	Who can you identify as the boss that reassures Ewold?	LIGHT GREEN	GREY	
8	Which point of view is this passage told in?	1st Person	2nd Person	
9		YELLOW	GREY	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Main Idea & Supporting Detail

Main Idea	
Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail

1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	7
1	1	1	1	7	7	7	7	10	7
1	1	1	2	2	2	2	10	10	10
1	1	7	7	7	7	7	7	10	10
1	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	10
1	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	5	10
1	3	4	6	9	4	4	9	6	4
1	4	4	6	9	4	4	9	6	4
1	1	8	4	4	4	4	4	8	10
1	1	4	4	7	7	7	4	4	10
1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	10	10
1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	10	10



# Passage 3-Nonfiction

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Around the World

Christmas is celebrated by nearly two billion people all over the world. However, Christmas traditions, customs, and celebrations differ vastly, or greatly, depending on where you are located.

In some places, Christmas celebrations start early. For example, in France and Holland, Christmas celebrations commence on December 6. This is called St. Nicholas Day. This is a day to remember St. Nicholas for his generosity and kindness. Children receive little gifts to kick off the holidays. In Germany, Christmas markets are constructed in the main city squares. In Australia, beaches are filled with people weeks before Christmas. Families and friends gather to have picnics and to sing Christmas carols. Many countries celebrate Christmas on December 25. However, some places, such as Italy and Ukraine, celebrate Christmas on January 6.



Christmas market in Frankfurt, Germany

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Around the World

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Christmas market in Frankfurt, Germany

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Around the World Writing Prompt

Write about a holiday you celebrate around this time of year. Compare and contrast it to the way people around the world celebrate Christmas. If you don't celebrate a holiday around this time, choose any holiday you'd like to compare and contrast with the information in the passage.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Around the World

Directions: Read the passage. Then, answer the questions. When finished, use your answers here to help you color the mystery grid.

**1st Read Questions**

1	In which country would you likely see shoes on the windowsills waiting to be filled with treats?	Brazil	Australia	Holland
		WHITE	GREEN	LIGHT BLUE
2	Which is NOT a tradition and symbol found in countries around the world?	They are able to enjoy	They are	December

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Around the World

**2nd Read Questions**

6	What is the meaning of the word <u>vastly</u> as used in the passage?	Greatly	F
		GREEN	
3	Using your best representation of the word <u>picnic</u> , the	The people enjoyed the New Year more than Christmas.	
		WHITE	
4	Which best describes the meaning of the word <u>picnics</u> ?	Some countries celebrate Christmas on Boxing Day, a day after Christmas.	
		GREEN	
5	"...each family has its own traditions and celebrations."	Describe the meaning of the word <u>picnics</u> .	
		YELLOW	LIGHT BLUE
9	Which type of text structure is this passage written in?	To inform	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Compare & Contrast

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Around the World Answer Key

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions. Use the answers for each question to determine which color to use. (Ex. If your answer to question 2 has the color "pink" under it, color all of the number 2s pink.)

1	10	1	1	1	9	9	7	7	10	7	10
1	1	1	10	1	5	5	7	7	7	7	7
10	1	1	1	5	3	5	5	7	7	10	7
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1	10	1	6	6	4	4	4	6	6	7	10
1	1	9	6	3	6	3	6	6	9	7	7
10	1	5	5	9	9	9	9	9	9	5	5
1	4	5	5	3	5	3	5	3	5	3	4
1	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	6
8	8	8	8	2	2	8	8	8	8	8	8

# INCLUDES:

- ✓ TEACHER PAGES & PRINTABLES
- ✓ 3 DIFFERENTIATED PASSAGES
- ✓ 3 MYSTERY PICTURES
- ✓ 3 WRITING PROMPTS
- ✓ TEXT-DEPENDENT QUESTIONS
- ✓ GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS
- ✓ DIGITAL & PRINT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Main Idea & Supporting D

Main Idea

Supporting Detail

Supporting D

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## History of Santa Claus

Directions: Read the passage. Then, answer the questions. When finished, use your answers here to help you color the mystery grid.


**1<sup>st</sup> Read Questions**

1	In which area of the world did the legend of Santa Claus begin?	England	Asia Minor	France
2	Using your context clues, choose the best meaning of the word <b>perplexed</b> .	Distracted	Cleared	Confused
3	Which best states the main idea of the passage?	Santa helps children all over the world.	While Santa has many variations, he is a celebrated figure by many all over the world.	History shows that everyone believes that Santa is a real person.

Christmas, Old Man Christmas, Kris Kringle, Pere Noel, St. Nick- these are all names for which Santa Claus is known. In many cultures, Santa Claus is known as a bringer of gifts and joy to children, but how did Santa Claus come into being?

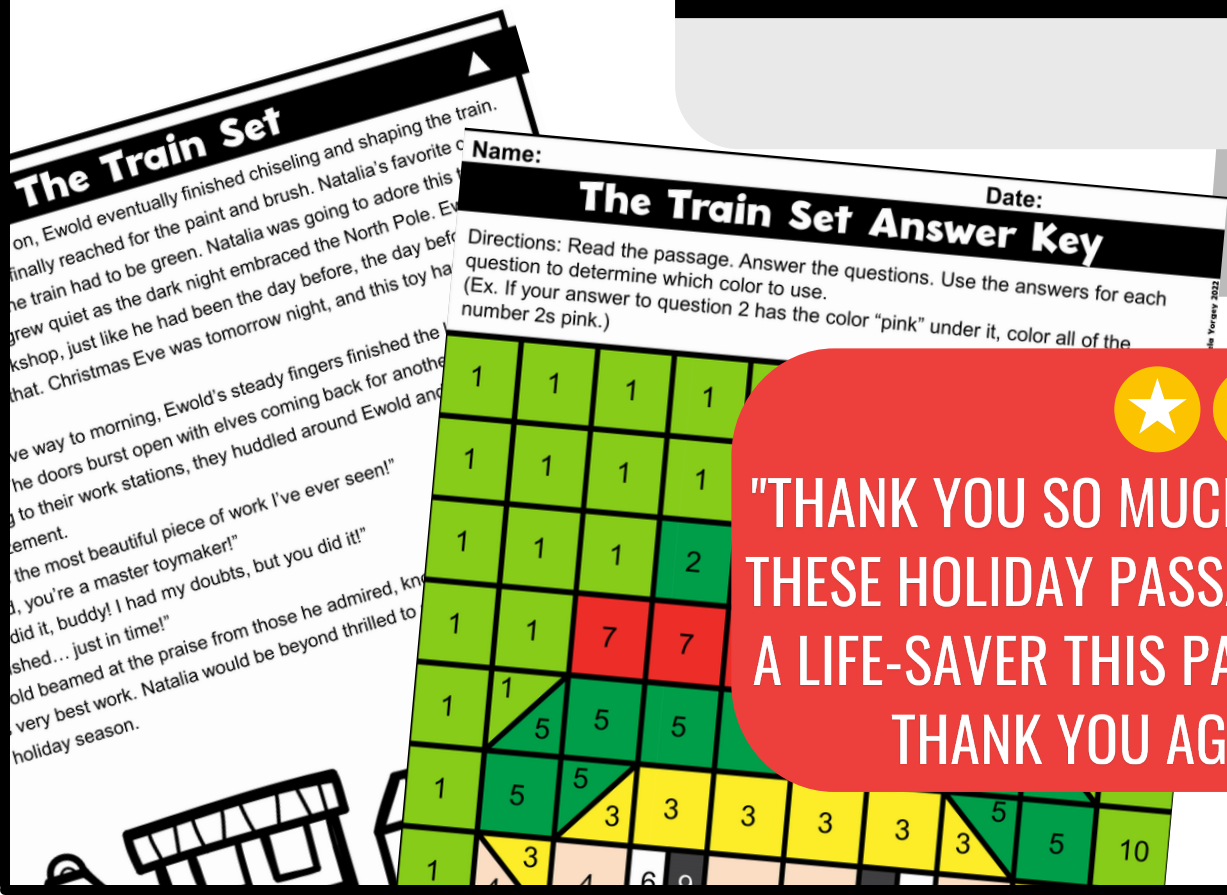
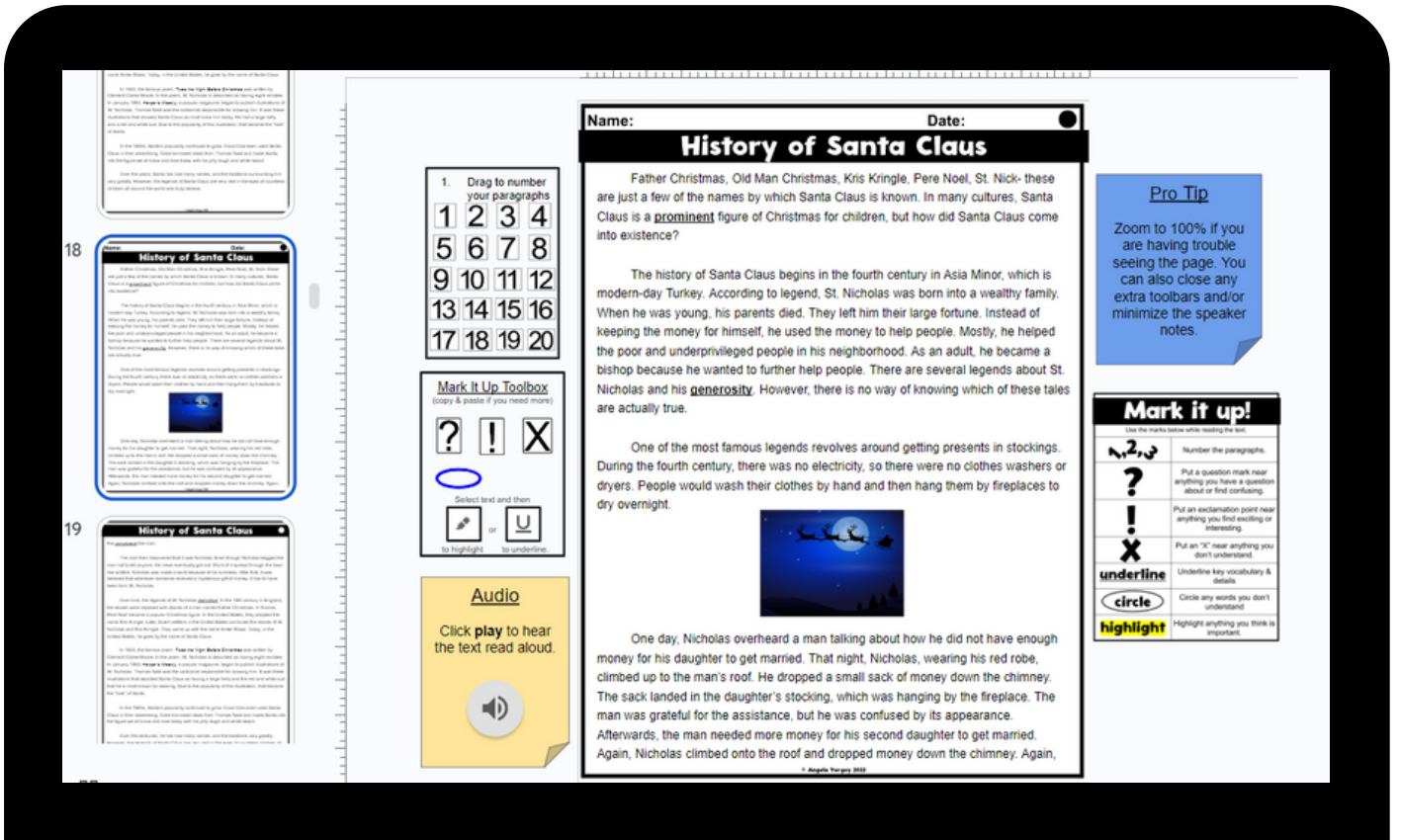
According to legend, St. Nicholas was born into a wealthy family, but when he was young, his parents died, leaving him their large fortune. Instead of keeping the money for himself, he used the money to help the poor and underprivileged people in his town. As an adult, he became a bishop so that he could further help people. Several legends about St. Nicholas and his **generosity**. However, there is no way of knowing which of these tales are actually true.

One of the most famous legends revolves around getting presents in stockings. In the fourth century, there was no electricity. Thus, there were no clothes washers. People would wash their clothes by hand and then hang them by fireplaces to dry overnight.



# Holiday Fun + Engaging ELA Review

HIGH-INTEREST  
TEXTS + MYSTERY  
PICTURES IS THE  
WINNING COMBO  
FOR STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENT.



★★★★★  
"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING THIS RESOURCE!  
THESE HOLIDAY PASSAGES AND ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN  
A LIFE-SAVER THIS PAST MONTH WITH MY STUDENTS!!  
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THIS RESOURCE!!!"