

36 PASSAGES FOR HOLIDAY FUN!

READING COMPREHENSION

with Mystery Pictures



CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

History of Halloween

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

HALLOWEEN

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

American vs. Canadian Thanksgiving

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

THANKSGIVING

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

Christmas Around the World

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

CHRISTMAS

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

New Year's Day Around the World

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

NEW YEAR'S DAY

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

The History & Traditions of the Chinese New Year

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

CHINESE NEW YEAR

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

History of the Valentine's Day Card

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

VALENTINE'S DAY

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

Horse in the Elevator

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

PRESIDENTS' DAY

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

The Mardi Gras Parade

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

MARDI GRAS

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

St. Patrick's Day Traditions & Beliefs

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

PATRICK'S DAY

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

History of Jelly Beans

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

EASTER TIME

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

Mrs. Marshall's Class

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

EARTH DAY

CLOSE READING
with Mystery Pictures

History of Cinco de Mayo

FUN
in 5th grade
AND MORE

CINCO DE MAYO



HOLIDAY BUNDLE

HOLIDAYS INCLUDED:

- ✓ HALLOWEEN
- ✓ THANKSGIVING
- ✓ CHRISTMAS*
- ✓ NEW YEAR'S DAY
- ✓ CHINESE NEW YEAR
- ✓ VALENTINE'S DAY
- ✓ PRESIDENTS' DAY
- ✓ MARDI GRAS
- ✓ ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- ✓ EASTER*
- ✓ EARTH DAY
- ✓ CINCO DE MAYO

*SECULAR

History of the Valentine's Day Card
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Valentine's Day cards are a coveted commodity on Valentine's Day. Teachers all over the country set aside time for students to exchange cards, postal workers sift through countless cards to make sure that they reach their destinations on time, and stores are well stocked with a variety of Valentine's Day cards, from humorous to romantic to friendship. Valentine's Day cards are a huge industry, as it is the second-most popular occasion to give greeting cards. In fact, in the United States, an average of 180 million Valentine's Day cards are traded annually.

2nd Read Questions

People were getting sick of having to hand make each one.	It was easier and faster that way.	Valentine's Day was a popular holiday.
PINK	RED	LIGHT BLUE
To rewrite it in pen	To change from cursive to print	To change words from one language to another
BROWN	RED	LIGHT BLUE
"...in the United States, an average of 180 million Valentine's Day cards are traded annually."	"However, they are no longer restricted to romantic purposes."	"...people decided that the greetings should be more decorative in nature."
LIGHT BLUE	PINK	

Main Idea & Supporting Details
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Main Idea
 Supporting Detail
 Supporting Detail

Digital & Print

DIFFERENTIATED TO 3 LEVELS

The digital tablet displays a worksheet titled "History of Earth Day" with a color-by grid. The grid is a 10x10 square with numbers inside. The numbers are: Row 1: 1, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7, 6, 6, 1; Row 2: 1, 6, 7, 7, 9, 9, 9, 7, 6, 1; Row 3: 1, 3, 7, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 3, 1; Row 4: 1, 3, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 3, 1; Row 5: 1, 3, 8, 2, 5, 5, 5, 5, 2, 8, 3, 1; Row 6: 1, 3, 8, 8, 2, 5, 5, 5, 2, 8, 3, 1; Row 7: 1, 3, 7, 8, 8, 2, 5, 5, 2, 8, 3, 1; Row 8: 1, 6, 7, 7, 8, 2, 5, 5, 2, 8, 7, 3, 1; Row 9: 1, 6, 6, 7, 2, 2, 7, 6, 6, 1; Row 10: 1, 6, 6, 7, 4, 4, 7, 6, 6, 1. The grid is partially colored with red, orange, yellow, and grey. To the left of the grid are instructions: "Print this page out to color or use the instructions below to color digitally." and "How to color the squares" (1. Pull cursor inside the space or spaces you want to color. 2. Select the paint can from the toolbar. 3. Choose the color you need that matches your answer. 4. Repeat as needed.) and "How to color the triangle and rectangles" (1. Select shape. 2. Click paint can and then color.) Below the grid is a "History of Earth Day Writing Prompt" section.



**AUDIO
INCLUDED**

The printed worksheet is titled "History of Earth Day" and includes a color-by grid. The grid is a 10x10 square with numbers inside. The numbers are: Row 1: 1, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7, 6, 6, 1; Row 2: 1, 6, 7, 7, 9, 9, 9, 7, 6, 1; Row 3: 1, 3, 7, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 3, 1; Row 4: 1, 3, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 3, 1; Row 5: 1, 3, 8, 2, 5, 5, 5, 5, 2, 8, 3, 1; Row 6: 1, 3, 8, 8, 2, 5, 5, 5, 2, 8, 3, 1; Row 7: 1, 3, 7, 8, 8, 2, 5, 5, 2, 8, 3, 1; Row 8: 1, 6, 7, 7, 8, 2, 5, 5, 2, 8, 7, 3, 1; Row 9: 1, 6, 6, 7, 2, 2, 7, 6, 6, 1; Row 10: 1, 6, 6, 7, 4, 4, 7, 6, 6, 1. The grid is partially colored with red, orange, yellow, and grey. To the left of the grid are instructions: "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.)" and "Name: _____ Date: _____". Below the grid is a "History of Earth Day Writing Prompt" section.

EVERY SET INCLUDES

1 FICTION TEXT

2 NONFICTION TEXTS

MYSTERY PIC FOR EACH

INCLUDED WITH EVERY PASSAGE

- 3 Levels of Text
- 10 Questions
- Mystery Picture
- Writing Prompt
- Graphic Organizers
- & MORE

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.



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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 in some countries in Africa and Asia?	They are able to enjoy	They are	December

Name: _____ Date: _____
Christmas Around the World
2nd Read Questions

3	Using your best representation of the word <u>generosity</u> , write a sentence.	Greatly	F
6	What is the meaning of the word <u>vastly</u> as used in the passage?	GREEN	
7	What caused the people of Ukraine to celebrate the New Year instead of Christmas?	The people enjoyed the New Year more than Christmas.	
4	Which best describes the meaning of the word <u>generosity</u> ?	WHITE	
8	Which of the following statements would best fit in paragraph 4?	Some countries celebrate Christmas on Boxing Day, a day after Christmas.	
5	"...each family has its own traditions and customs." Which word best describes the meaning of the word <u>customs</u> ?	GRE	
9	Which type of text structure is this passage written in?	Des	
		YELLOW	LIGHT BLUE

Name: _____ Date: _____
Compare & Contrast

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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	5	7	7	10	7
1	1	1	4	5	3	5	4	7	7	7	
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	4	7
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:

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of New Year's Day

Since the beginning of the ages, people have been looking for ways to keep track of time. The ancient Egyptians invented the first time-telling device in about 1500 BC. It tracked shadows and sun movements. People recognized that the sun and moon were key in telling time. Each culture seemed to have its own calendar and ways of tracking time. Due to the inconsistencies, the first New Year's Day was not actually celebrated until January 1, 45 BC when the Julian calendar came into effect. Shortly after becoming Roman Emperor, Julius Caesar decided that he needed to reform the traditional Roman calendar. The old calendar followed the lunar cycle, but it frequently fell out of cycle when the seasons changed. Therefore, Julius Caesar saw the need to correct the old system. With the assistance of Sosigenes, an astronomer, they decided to move away from following the lunar cycle and follow the solar cycle, as the Egyptians did. Julius Caesar introduced the concept of 365 days and the idea that a day should be added to February every 4 years. His successor, Augustus, also...

Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of New Year's Day

2nd Read Questions

Which of the following was NOT supported?	Miniature	Small	Gigantic
What is the best synonym for <u>elusive</u> as used in the passage?	YELLOW	RED	WHITE
Which of the following was NOT a difference between the Julian calendar and the Gregorian calendar?	A year on the Gregorian calendar was about eleven minutes less than on the Julian Calendar.	The Gregorian calendar was 365 days long.	The Gregorian calendar reduced the number of leap years.
	WHITE	YELLOW	BLACK
	New Year's Day is a time when everyone celebrates.	The calendar has gone through many changes.	Not everyone in the world follows the same calendar.
			WHITE

Name: _____ Date: _____

Main Idea & Supporting Detail

Main Idea

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Holiday Fun + Engaging ELA Review

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

The screenshot shows a digital reading interface for a text titled "The Mardi Gras Parade". The interface includes:

- Navigation:** A grid of numbered boxes (1-20) for navigating through paragraphs.
- Mark It Up Toolbox:** Tools for highlighting, underlining, and marking text with question marks, exclamation points, or 'X's.
- Audio:** A play button to hear the text read aloud.
- Text Content:** The article discusses the history of the Mardi Gras parade, mentioning its origins in Mobile, Alabama, and its evolution in New Orleans.
- Pro Tip:** A blue callout box suggesting to zoom to 100% for better visibility.
- Mark it up! Legend:** A table explaining the symbols used in the toolbox:

Symbol	Instruction
1, 2, 3	Number the paragraphs.
?	Put a question mark near anything you have a question about or find confusing.
!	Put an exclamation point near anything you find exciting or interesting.
X	Put an "X" near anything you don't understand.
underline	Underline key vocabulary & details.
circle	Circle any words you don't understand.
highlight	Highlight anything you think is important.

The worksheet is titled "The History of Mardi Gras" and includes a "Mystery Picture" grid. The grid consists of a 5x5 grid of colored squares, each containing a number. The numbers are:

9	9	3	9	
9	3	4	3	
3	4	4	4	
1	4	4	4	
1	4	10	10	4
2	4	10	10	10
2	2	2	2	2

 The text on the worksheet provides historical context: "Consistently in New Orleans, Louisiana's governor held elegant... In 1827, a group of students decided to celebrate Mardi Gras... colorful costumes and dancing through the streets of New Orleans... 10 years later in... Orleans Mardi Gras parade took place... 10 years later in... organizations have continued to put on parades and... organizations are called krewes... became an official holiday in Louisiana in 1875. Louisiana... is a legal holiday, but other states still hold elaborate..."

 A small photograph of a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans is included at the bottom left of the worksheet.

 Directions: Read the passage, answer the question to determine which color to use for each square. (Ex. If your answer to question number 2 is pink.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW MUCH MY STUDENTS ENJOYED THESE ACTIVITIES! THEY WERE SO MOTIVATED TO READ THE ENTIRE PASSAGE AND ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY IN ORDER TO COLOUR IN THE PICTURE. THEY WERE SO ENGAGED EACH TIME I BROUGHT ONE OF THESE OUT AND GOT RIGHT DOWN TO WORK. I ALSO LIKE THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS OF FICTION AND NON-FICTION TEXTS FOR EACH ONE. THE CHINESE NEW YEAR DRAGON WAS A CLASS FAVOURITE."

Check out the individual previews to see what's included with each set.

CLICK TO TRY THE FREEBIE TO SEE WHAT ONE PASSAGE IS LIKE.



CLOSE READING

with *Mystery Pictures*

CRAYON FREEBIE