

December Informational Texts

Nonfiction Reading Comprehension

- ✓ Engaging to Read
- ✓ Text-Aligned Questions
- ✓ High-Interest Topics
- ✓ 4th & 5th Grade

Scroll down to see
what's included!



Tanya G. Marshall

The image shows two pages from a spiral notebook. The top page is titled "5 The History of Candy Canes" and includes a photograph of a cup of coffee with candy canes. The bottom page is titled "7 The Winter Solstice" and includes a photograph of people walking in a park. Both pages contain text and questions.

5 The History of Candy Canes

Do you like to eat candy canes? Candy canes are hard, cane-shaped candies that people usually use during December in the United States. There is also a National Candy Cane Day in America on the day after Christmas. They come in several flavors and colors, but the most common is red and white striped peppermint. These treats are popular, but do you know where they come from and why they are mostly enjoyed in December?

Traditional candy canes are often a symbol of Christmas, with the red and white colors representing the story of Jesus Christ. When turned upside down, the candy cane turns into the letter J for Jesus.

Many others believe that candy canes were first introduced over 350 years ago. The candy canes were popular. The candy canes were shaped like a cane. The candy canes were used to keep them sweet. Now, people hang the candy canes from the trees to be eaten the

Questions

1. Circle in blue what candy canes are.
2. When is National Candy Cane Day?
3. Based on the text, what does the word "symbol" mean _____.
4. Underline in orange what the candy cane represents.

7 The Winter Solstice

The winter solstice is the exact moment when half of the earth is tilted the furthest away from the sun. It marks the changing of fall to winter. If you live in the Northern Hemisphere, winter is a cold and dark season. If you live in the Southern Hemisphere, it usually marks a warm and sunny season. The winter solstice usually happens between December 21 or 22 and occurs at the exact moment no matter where you are in the world!

In the Northern Hemisphere, places like the U.S. have colder, darker weather during this time of year. Since less sunlight makes it to the earth for the part of the world, the days are much shorter than in the Southern Hemisphere. Here, the winter solstice happens in June because the seasons are flipped. During the winter solstice, your shadow will be the longest you can cast or give off for the whole year.

Questions

1. Underline in blue what the winter solstice is.
2. Circle in red what the winter solstice marks.
3. Based on the text, what does the word "cast" mean _____.
4. Underline in orange when the winter solstice happens each year.
5. Box in green what happens to your shadow during the winter solstice.
6. Circle in purple the type of season you have in Southern Hemisphere during solstice.

10 Effective Close Reading Passages

Quick-Reads Improve Reading Comprehension

9 Snowflakes-A Unique Beauty

One of the defining symbols of winter is the snowflake. During winter in some places, you may see snowfall from the sky as a form of precipitation like rain or sleet. When it is at or below the freezing point outside, snowflakes form ice crystals. Hundreds of ice crystals made from water vapor connect!

Have you ever looked at a snowflake closely? Snowflakes are just as unique as the human fingerprint! There are never any two snowflakes that look the same. Each snowflake always has six sides, like a hexagon. Snowflakes can be sorted into six groups based on their shape. These shapes depend on the temperature and moisture of the atmosphere. When it's frigid or really cold outside, the snowflakes become powdery and simple in design. When it is near the freezing point, snowflakes become more detailed and complex, like a star shape. These unique beauties are truly unlike anything else!



Questions

1. Circle in blue when you may see snowflakes.
2. Underline in red how snowflakes form.
3. Based on the text, what does the word "frigid" mean? _____
4. Underline in orange what makes snowflakes unique.
5. Box in green what snowflakes' shapes depend on.
6. What happens to snowflakes when the temperature is closer to the freezing point outside?

7. Underline in purple the name of a six-sided shape.
8. Circle in brown a word that's a synonym for "special" and rare.

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- ✓ Define words in context
- ✓ Build inference skills
- ✓ Summarize text details
- ✓ Color-Code the answers



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Printable + Digital Versions

Topics included are:

- 1-- "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" History of Christmas
- 2--Kwanzaa: A Holiday for Unity and Life
- 3--"Happy New Year's"...Almost!
- 4--Do You Know the Gingerbread Man?
- 5-- The History of Candy Canes
- 6--Winter Holidays Around the World
- 7--The Winter Solstice
- 8--Winter Activities--Ice Skating
- 9--Snowflakes--A Unique Beauty
- 10--Human Rights Day



Works in a variety of ways:

You get flexibility with these passages!



Intervention practice
for individual
students

Engaging NO PREP Reading
Centers or Sub-Work



AND MORE!



Early Finishers
Reading Practice

What other Teachers are saying...



“—
| Fantastic, easy short and very
| informative as an entrance ticket to
| the day. Can be used as a summative
| assessment. When I taped a candy cane
| to the candy cane sheet they were
| really interested. I would use this again
| and highly recommend it.

—Peggy M.



Build stronger readers without stress!



“

My students really enjoyed reading about the different winter traditions and holidays. It was engaging enough for my high learners to do on their own. I worked with a small group of students who needed help. Overall positive reviews from the kids!

-Kellyn A.

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Passages You Will



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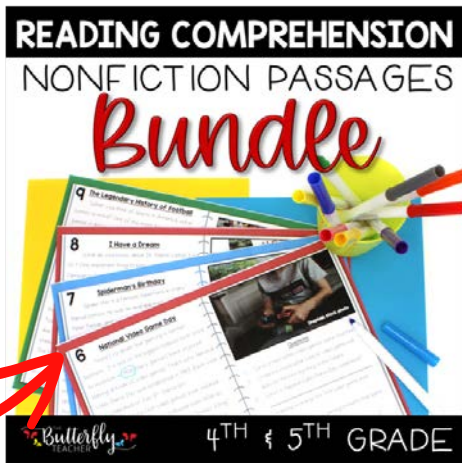


★ Seasonal Topics for All Year

★ Easy-to-Use Close Reading

★ Improves Reading Comprehension

Click the image to
see more



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