

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Reading Passages in this packet allow students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

TASK	OVERVIEW
TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANKS	Using Close Reading strategies, students will use context clues to fill in the missing words in the reading passage. This will then be used as the main passage to use for the remaining tasks.
TASK 2: VOCABULARY	The vocabulary activity helps kids identify and understand new or unfamiliar words before they complete further activities.
TASK 3: RESPOND	Students will choose from three writing prompts and write their answer to just one of them using complete sentences.
TASK 4: TRUE OR FALSE	Students complete this activity to show overall comprehension of the passage. They may refer back to the passage when necessary. In the end, they add up the TRUE statements.
TASK 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE	For a quick formative check for understanding, students will answer 10 multiple choice questions.
TASK 6: WORD SEARCH	Students will search for key vocabulary words related to the topic. Several missed letters will spell out a secret message.
FINAL TASK: SUMMARY (OPTIONAL)	This is an optional summary graphic organizer to use if needed. Could be used for early finishers, an extension activity, or as a final check for understanding.
GRADE LEVEL	RANGE
4	MIDDLE
4	END
5	BEGINNING
5	MIDDLE
5	END
6	BEGINNING
6	MIDDLE
6	END
7	BEGINNING

TASK #1: FILL IN THE BLANK

EARN THIS!

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the reading.

50-page	job	British
author	king	Pennsylvania
1776	loyal	questions

Thomas Paine (1736-1809) was an _____ and political activist during the American Revolution. He was born in London in 1737. He left school at the age of 13 to work with his father. He went on to become a tax collector but was fired twice. He couldn't keep a stable _____ and was in a lot of debt (money owed). When he met Benjamin Franklin in London, Franklin was able to convince him to move to the American colonies and start a job. In 1774, he sold his property to pay off his debts and moved to Philadelphia, _____.

In Philadelphia, Paine started his career as a journalist and editor for the Pennsylvania Magazine. He began writing about injustices such as slavery and poverty (extremely poor), anonymously signing his name as "Justice and Humanity."

The American Revolution began in _____. This fight was for independence of the American colonies from _____ rule. There were few people who wanted to fight for this freedom. Most were still _____ to King George III and did not want to join the fight. Rather, they wanted things to stay the same. Thomas Paine showed great interest in this movement and wanted America to be an independent country, free from the rule of a _____.

After the battles of Lexington and Concord, the first military engagements of the Revolutionary War, Paine began to write about demanding independence. On January 10, 1776, Thomas Paine published a _____ pamphlet that discussed why the colonists should be fighting for freedom. He published it anonymously and called it "Common Sense," believing it was common sense to break away from Britain. He addressed different ideas in his writing and asked straightforward _____ for every reader to think about. For example, he asked why the colonists should show loyalty to a king who oppresses (cruel and unjust) them. He asked, "How much longer can Americans stand for the repeated abuses of the Crown?" He proclaimed, "A government of our own is our natural right."

TASK #4: TRUE OR FALSE



EARN THIS!

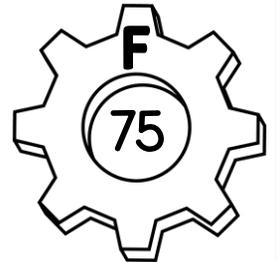
Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the gear that corresponds to that question. If it is false, cross out the gear. When you are finished add the **TOTAL** of ALL TRUE gears.



A

25

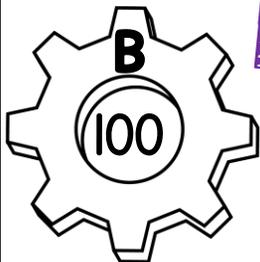
A. Those who wanted freedom were called Loyalists.



F

75

B. Thomas Paine stopped writing after the Revolutionary War began.



B

100

C. The Declaration of Independence was ratified (approved) on July 4th, 1776.



G

50

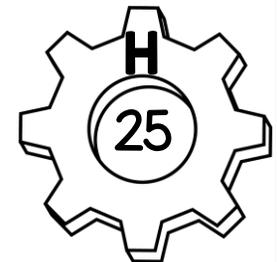
D. Paine's Common Sense sold over 100,000 copies.



C

75

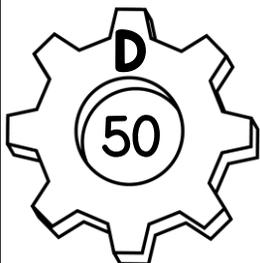
E. In Philadelphia, Paine started his career as a journalist.



H

25

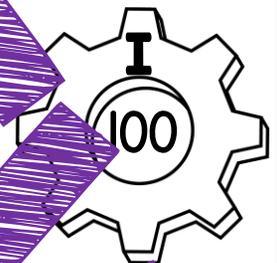
F. Common Sense was 34 pages long.



D

50

G. Under the invitation of Thomas Jefferson, Paine traveled back to the colonies.



I

100

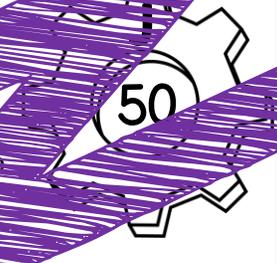
H. The American Revolution began in 1775.



E

25

I. At the time, King James II was the king of Britain.



J

50

J. Common Sense was published on January 10, 1776.

TOTAL: _____

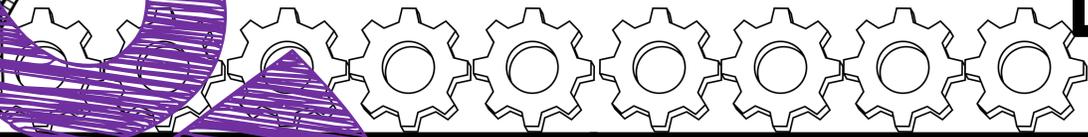
TASK #5: MULTIPLE CHOICE



EARN THIS!



Complete the multiple choice questions below by circling the correct answer.



1. What month was *Common Sense* published?

- A. January
- B. February
- C. June
- D. July

2. Where was Paine born?

- A. Paris
- B. London
- C. Prussia
- D. Oslo

3. What were people called who were willing to fight for independence?

- A. Delegates
- B. Loyalists
- C. Neutrals
- D. Patriots

4. What name did Paine often use anonymously?

- A. Liberty and Freedom
- B. Crown and Independence
- C. Justice and Humanity
- D. Humanity and Religion

5. Which battles marked the start of the Revolutionary War?

- A. Gettysburg and Oswego
- B. Concord and Philadelphia
- C. Lexington and Concord
- D. Bunker Hill and Lexington

6. How many "American Crisis" papers did Paine write for the colonial troops?

- A. 4
- B. 8
- C. 12
- D. 16

7. When did the Revolutionary War begin?

- A. 1775
- B. 1777
- C. 1779
- D. 1781

8. What is another word for ratified?

- A. Vetoed
- B. Appealed
- C. Denied
- D. Approved

9. At the time, who was the king of Britain?

- A. King James III
- B. King George III
- C. King James VII
- D. King George VII

10. Paine wrote newspaper articles defending President _____ policies.

- A. Madison's
- B. Washington's
- C. Jefferson's
- D. Adam's

BOT CARDS

Complete all 6 tasks correctly, then color and assemble your robot.

