

MARCH

COMPREHENSION

READING

PASSAGE

Activities



CRAYONS

Crayons were invented in America in 1903. They were first used to mark crates that were being shipped on big boats. Crayons were created with a non-toxic wax, and colors were added to give them their use today.

How Crayons Are Made

Crayons only use three ingredients: clay, pigment, and a wax called paraffin are used to create the powder that the wax is made. The melted wax onto a cone shape to make a crayon. Crayons are made by a machine that scrapes off the excess wax or cracked crayons. Crayons have been made by a machine that scrapes off the excess wax and puts them into a bowl. A machine that scrapes off the excess wax and puts them into a bowl.

Materials:
wax crayons
muffin pan

Steps:

- Unwrap the crayons
- Fill each circle of the muffin pan with wax
- Preheat the oven to 350°F
- Remove from the oven and flip the muffin pan

SHORT ANSWER:

MARDI GRAS MAMBO

A PINCH OF LUCK

My day did not start off the way I had imagined. I went to school thinking that the worst part of my day would be the meatloaf in the cafeteria because I hate the ketchup they put on top. Boy, was I wrong. You see, I completely forgot that it was St. Patrick's Day. I'm not sure if you know this or not, but if you don't wear green on St. Patrick's Day, people get to pinch you. I was wearing gray sweatpants, a red shirt, and black shoes. Needless to say, I didn't have on any green.

As I walked into my class, I could feel everyone's eyes on me. I walked to my desk and avoided eye contact with just about everyone, except my friend Mateo. He had on a green shirt that said "lucky" on it.

"Jameson, why are you wearing red? You do know it's St. Patrick's Day, don't you?" Mateo asked.

"Obviously, I forgot. Otherwise, I would have worn my Celtics jersey," I replied.

"You better find some green quick, or your shirt won't be the only thing that is red by the end of the day. You'll have red pinch marks all over your arms," Mateo added.

Ugh. He was right. I had to come up with a plan. I went to the pencil bucket to grab a new pencil when I felt a sting on the back of my arm. Marnie was the first person to pinch me.

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ndulge?



MARDI GRAS MAMBO

Mardi Gras, also called "Fat Tuesday", began as a religious celebration in the Middle Ages. It is celebrated the day before the start of Lent. In some religions, Lent is a period of 40 days in which people give up things like chocolate, meat, sweets, or even Instagram! Mardi Gras is a day when people indulge in, or enjoy, all of the things they plan to give up for Lent. While the date changes every year, Mardi Gras usually occurs in February or March.

History

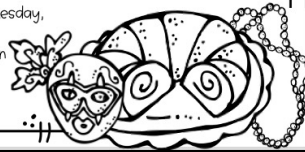
Over the years, Mardi Gras has become a great celebration in southern states like Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. New Orleans, Louisiana is the most popular location for Mardi Gras. However, the city of Mobile, Alabama claims that they were the first city to celebrate Mardi Gras in 1703. These celebrations continued for many years and included festivals and balls where people wore fancy masks. In 1837, the first Mardi Gras parade took place in New Orleans. In 1857, these parades started to include floats, which were often horse-drawn carriages that had been decorated. Floats are still common in Mardi Gras parades today. Mardi Gras became an official holiday in Louisiana in 1875.

Traditions

Mardi Gras krewes are organizations that work all year planning parades, balls, and events to celebrate the carnival season, which is the time from January 6 to Mardi Gras. During a Mardi Gras parade, krewes throw beaded necklaces, stuffed animals, and Moon Pies to people on the streets. They wear bright, colorful costumes. Some krewes also wear masks. Each krewe crowns their new king and queen of Mardi Gras for the year.

In 1872, the official colors for the Mardi Gras holiday became green, gold, and purple. Green stands for faith, gold stands for power, and purple stands for justice. King cakes were created in 1870. A king cake is a popular sweet treat many people enjoy during the carnival season. It is a blend of coffee cake and a cinnamon roll. The cake also has a hidden surprise inside - a plastic king cake baby! Whoever gets the baby in their slice of cake is supposed to purchase the next king cake or throw a party. This helps continue the celebration.

Schools in the coastal cities of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama have Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday off during the week of Mardi Gras so they can celebrate. If you go to a parade, it is tradition to say, "Throw me something, mister!" You might then be rewarded with beads or a toy!



CRAYONS

called? Which text feature helped you find the answer?

crayons before they made a non-toxic version with color?

mean as it is used in paragraph 2?

True False

True False

True False



five fiction & nonfiction close reading passages with comprehension questions

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Directions: Use the boxes below to compare and contrast Eric Carle and Kevin Henkes.

ERIC CARLE

BOTH

KEVIN HENKES

STEPS IN A PROCESS

Directions: Use the graphic organizer to explain the steps of making crayons in a factory.

1

2

EXPLANATORY WRITING

Prompt: Explain another solution to not wearing green on St. Patrick's Day. Explain why you think the rule should or should not change.

NARRATIVE WRITING

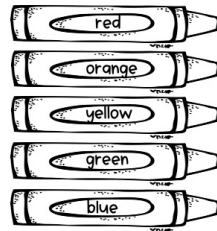
Prompt: Write a story about going to your first Mardi Gras parade. What do you see? What do you smell? What is the weather like? Be detailed with your descriptions.

OPINION WRITING

Prompt: Write an opinion piece stating which author you think is the most popular. Use details from the article to support your opinion.

MARK UP THE POEM!

Directions: Follow the steps below to annotate the poem and answer questions.



Underline the rhyming words in red.

Number the stanzas in orange.

What are some different book genres?

When is Read Across America Day?

For how long do schools celebrate Read Across America Day?

How does the poet feel about Read Across America Day? Be sure to restate the question and use text evidence in your response.



STANDARDS-BASED
ACTIVITIES & WRITING PROMPTS
FOR EACH PASSAGE.

CLOSE READING

FICTION

Underline and the
character

CLOSE READING

NONFICTION

Put exclamation points
(!) next to details you
find interesting.

MARKING UP THE TEXT FICTION

1. Underline the characters and the setting.
2. Draw a ★ next to the problem and the solution.
3. Circle unfamiliar words or phrases.
4. Put a ? next to any part of the story you don't understand or have questions about.

3.

NOT SO WIMPY TEACHER

ANCHOR CHARTS FOR
TEACHERS & STUDENTS.

A PINCH OF LUCK

SHORT ANSWER:

1. From whose point of view is the story told?

The story is told from Jameson's point of view. (1st person)

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

Directions: Use the graphic organizer to describe two problems and solutions from the story.

PROBLEM

Jameson doesn't want to eat the meatloaf at school because of the ketchup.

SOLUTION

The school changed the menu to pizza instead of meatloaf.

PROBLEM

Jameson keeps getting pinched because he is not wearing green.

SOLUTION

Mrs. Gresham gives Jameson a green sticker anymore.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Directions: Use the boxes below to compare and contrast Eric Carle and Kevin Henkes.

ERIC CARLE	BOTH	KEVIN HENKES
Answers may vary. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was born in New York.• He used bright colors in his illustrations.• He lived in Germany during his childhood.	Answers may vary. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They both are famous authors and illustrators.• They both won the Children's Literacy Legacy Award.• They both had two children.	Answers may vary. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He won three Caldecott Medals.• He writes about mice.• His stories are about real problems children may face.



ANSWER KEYS FOR ACTIVITIES & QUESTIONS ARE INCLUDED.

MARCH READING PASSAGES *at a glance*

Day 1 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Mardi Gras Mambo"	Day 2 Comprehension Questions "Mardi Gras Mambo"	Day 3 Standards-Based Activity Timeline "Mardi Gras Mambo"	Day 4 Writing: Narrative "Mardi Gras Mambo"
Day 5 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Children's Book Authors"	Day 6 Comprehension Questions "Children's Book Authors"	Day 7 Standards-Based Activity Compare and Contrast "Children's Book Authors"	Day 8 Writing: Persuasive "Children's Book Authors"
Day 9 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Crayons"	Day 10 Comprehension Questions "Crayons"	Day 11 Standards-Based Activity Steps in a Process "Crayons"	Day 12 Writing: Narrative "Crayons"
Day 13 Close Reading Mark up the Text "A Pinch of Luck"	Day 14 Comprehension Questions "A Pinch of Luck"	Day 15 Standards-Based Activity Problem and Solution "A Pinch of Luck"	Day 16 Writing: Explanatory "A Pinch of Luck"
Day 17 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Read Across America Day"	Day 18 Comprehension Questions "Read Across America Day"	Day 19 Standards-Based Activity Poem Annotation "Read Across America Day"	Day 20 Writing: Opinion "Read Across America Day"

THIS UNIT COVERS THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE ELA STANDARDS: RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.5, RI.3.8, RI.3.9, RL.3.1, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.4, RL.3.5, RL.3.6, W.3.1, W.3.2, W.3.3

NOT SO WIMPY TEACHER

Includes an at a glance page to help with planning.

GETTING STARTED

Teacher Directions & Tips

Close reading is an important skill for students to learn and helps students become independent readers and has the most meaning as possible.

This resource includes:

- anchor charts for both fiction and nonfiction texts
- student reference sheets to use during close reading
- an "At A Glance" plan for implementing the reading activities
- fiction and nonfiction reading passages
- reading comprehension questions
- standards-based reading activities
- read and respond writing pages

This resource can be used over the course of a month or your needs.

The close reading writing

ANCHOR CHARTS

There are a variety of anchor charts that can be printed and displayed or projected for students to reference during close reading time. I have included anchor charts that explain the steps of close reading, as well as how to mark up the text during close reading time.

If this is the first time you have implemented close reading in the classroom, I would recommend modeling this reading strategy with students, repeatedly referencing the anchor charts often before having students practice it on their own.

STUDENT REFERENCE SHEETS

You can print and allow students to use different formats to choose from, how to annotate or mark up the text as well as how you would like to refer to this

the text, skills, standards, and activity is planned out, and you

FICTION & NONFICTION READING PASSAGES

Each month has a mix of rigorous fiction and nonfiction texts. Each text focuses on a different reading standard or skill. These passages were made with the intent that students would have the opportunity to circle, underline, add symbols, and annotate thoughts as they closely read. Passages include all types of topics, including science and social studies.

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Each close reading text has a set of standards-based reading comprehension questions that will have your students thinking deeply about the passage, as well as referring to the passage in search of text evidence that supports their answers.

STANDARDS-BASED READING ACTIVITIES

Each passage has a standards-based activity that will have your students practicing specific reading skills while having fun and staying engaged. These activities might include filling in graphic organizers, deciphering a secret message, or matching parts of the story with vocabulary. The activities vary depending on the reading skill your students are working on.

READ & RESPOND WRITING ACTIVITIES

Each text has a question that requires students to respond through their writing. These questions will have students analyzing the text and using it as evidence to support the answers they write.

NOT SO WINNY TEACHER

INCLUDES detailed teacher directions & tips