

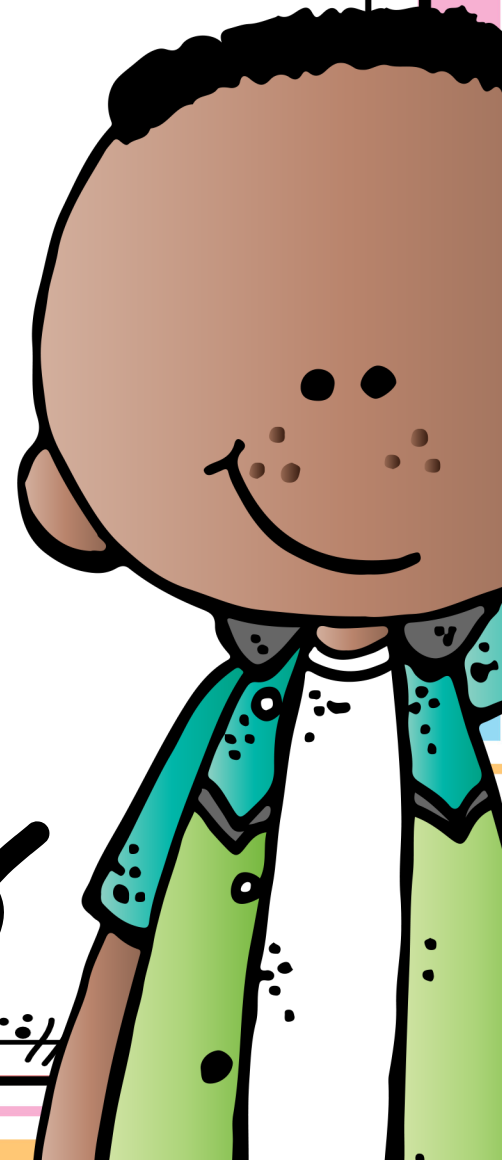
MAY

COMPREHENSION

READING

PASSAGE

Activities



THE SCAVENGER HUNT

"Jake! Hurry up! We are going to be late," my sister yelled from downstairs.

We were going to a family reunion today, and it was something we look forward to every summer. It was nice to see all of our family, but our favorite part of the reunion was the scavenger hunt. Aunt Margaret always planned the hunt. The teams change every year, but Uncle Ned was always on the team. He had a bit of an

Once I got downstairs, the rest of the family was there. I rushed over to not disappointed. I was

thought to myself. I thought I was a man!

Lucy could be very nice to her. I walked over to her. I guess she was

Uncle Ned called us out. He opened the door.

"One sheet, two sheets, some use more. What's the paper?"

Uncle Ned asked, "What's the paper?"

"It's toilet paper!" I said. "I had her extra household items at the bottom of the toilet paper

"Hmm...what is something that uses ink?" Uncle Ned asked. Lucy stood in the doorway and rolled her eyes again. I guess she thought the scavenger hunt was not very fun.

"C'mon, Lucy. You could have fun if you stopped rolling your eyes," I said to her.

CINCO de MAYO

Every year, many Americans gather to celebrate Cinco de Mayo on May 5. In Spanish, "Cinco de Mayo" means "fifth of May." Although the holiday is popular in the United States, there are many misconceptions, or misunderstandings, about the history of the day and why it is celebrated.

Why is Cinco de Mayo celebrated?

Many people believe that Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican Independence Day. However, this is not true. Cinco de Mayo actually celebrates the Battle of Puebla, the capital city of the state of Puebla in Mexico. This battle was fought on May 5, 1862 against the French. The official Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16. Even though Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in the United States, it is not a major Mexican holiday outside of Puebla. In fact, May 5 is just a regular day for most Mexicans.

Where is Cinco de Mayo celebrated?

Many people believe that the biggest celebration of Cinco de Mayo is in Mexico City, but that is not true. It is a popular holiday in Puebla, but not throughout Mexico. Citizens of Puebla celebrate the special holiday with parades, mariachi music, festivals, and big dinner parties. People in the United States enjoy celebrating Cinco de Mayo, as well, and some of the biggest celebrations are held in Los Angeles, California, San Antonio, Texas

THE SCAVENGER HUNT

THE LUCKY PENNY

Aziz had always felt like he was unlucky. He had never won any drawings or prizes. He had never guessed the closest number. He had never even scored a goal in soccer.

As he and his friend Carl were walking home from practice one day, they saw a penny on the sidewalk.

"It's too bad it's tail side up," Aziz said.

Carl reached down and picked up the penny. He handed it to Aziz and said, "Don't you know that you are supposed to give a tail-side-up penny to someone else? It is supposed to bring them good luck."

Aziz took the penny and replied, "Thanks, Carl. I can use all the luck I can get!"

When Aziz got home, he smelled the most delicious scent. He walked into the kitchen. His mom was talking freshly baked cookies out of the oven. He thought it was strange because she usually only made them on special occasions.

"Why are you baking cookies, Mom?" he asked.

"Oh, I had the ingredients and felt like doing a little baking. Would you like a few?" she asked.

"Absolutely! These are my favorite! Thanks, Mom. I'm going to eat them while I work on my homework," Aziz said.

The next morning at school, Aziz's class was participating in an estimation station. The students had to estimate how many items were in each jar. Whoever got the closest would get to keep the jar.

"Oh, great," Aziz thought. "There is no point in even trying. I never get anywhere close. I guess I'll try to see how many are on the bottom and count the number of rows going up. Maybe that will help me get closer."

Once everyone had made their estimation guesses, Mr. Buckley collected their guesses and started comparing them to the actual amounts.

"Well, it looks like Aziz is our Estimation Einstein today! He got the closest on four of five jars," Mr. Buckley announced proudly.

Aziz was in shock. He couldn't believe it! He never won anything, especially when he had to guess a number. He decided to share his jars with the next closest estimators. Aziz kept the jar with the fudge cubes inside.

"Aziz, it looks like your luck has changed, my friend," Carl said while patting Aziz on the back.

"I guess it was the penny. It turns out they really are lucky," Aziz replied.

"I think it has more to do with your confidence, but it could be the penny, too," Carl said with a wink.



CINCO de MAYO

the text? Choose one supporting detail from the passage.

paragraph 5?

does the word "misconception" mean as it's used in paragraph 1?

ish in Puebla, Mexico. True False

Mexico's independence. True False



NOT TO WORRY ABOUT

five fiction & nonfiction close reading passages with comprehension questions

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Directions: Using what you learned from the passage, complete the cause-and-effect organizer below.

CAUSE	EFFECT
CAUSE	

CHARACTER TRAITS

Directions: Choose a character from the story and use the anchor chart to describe their traits. Use evidence from the story to show their traits. Remember that character traits describe what a person is like on the inside.

CHARACTER

TRAIT

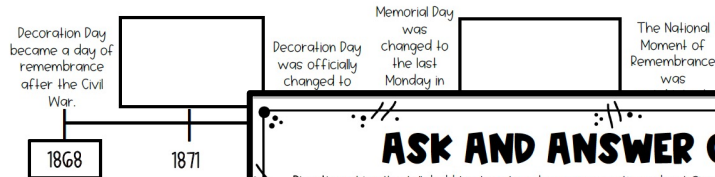
EVIDENCE

EXPOSITORY WRITING

Prompt: Give at least three examples of common misconceptions of Cinco de Mayo. Be sure that your three examples come from different paragraphs in the text.

SEQUENCE

Directions: Use the passage to complete the timeline below. Write the missing dates and events in the appropriate boxes. The first event on the timeline is completed for you.



Directions: Choose an event from the text explaining why you feel that way. Use evidence from the text.

NARRATIVE WRITING

Prompt: Write a story about having to work on a team with someone who is not easy to get along with. Use the text to describe the difficult character. How did the team perform? Was there someone on the team who was kind and encouraging to the difficult teammate? If so, how did that help the team's performance?

ASK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

Directions: Use the talk bubbles to ask and answer questions about Cinco de Mayo. Be sure that the questions you create can be answered using the text.

Question	→	Answer
Question	→	Answer
Question	→	Answer

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.

MEMORIAL DAY

SHORT ANSWER:

1. Under which text feature would you find where the National Memorial Day concert is held each year?

You would find it under the "Did You Know?" fact box.

2. How does paragraph 3 build on what is mentioned in paragraph 2?

to observe Memorial Day.

as it is used in the first paragraph? Write a different sentence from the way.

lly, May 30th was the day to observe Decoration Day on this day.

Day. True False

CHARACTER TRAITS

Directions: Choose a character from the story, and use the anchor chart to describe their traits. Remember that character traits describe what a person is like on the inside.

CHARACTER

Answers may vary. Sample Response: Jake

TRAIT

clever

EVIDENCE

He figured out the answer to the first riddle.

TRAIT

encouraging

EVIDENCE

He tells his class to participate in rolling hills.

TRAIT

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Directions: Using what you learned from the passage, complete the cause-and-effect organizer below.

CAUSE

Aziz was given a "lucky" penny.

EFFECT

His mom had fresh cookies when he got home.
OR
He won four jars in the estimation station.

CAUSE

Aziz counted the number of items on the bottom and the number of rows on the side of each jar.

EFFECT

Aziz guessed the closest numbers in the estimation station.

CAUSE

Aziz won four jars at the estimation station.

EFFECT

He shared his jars with his classmates who had the next closest guesses.



ANSWER KEYS FOR ACTIVITIES & QUESTIONS ARE INCLUDED.

MAY READING PASSAGES *at a glance*

Day 1 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Cinco de Mayo"	Day 2 Comprehension Questions "Cinco de Mayo"	Day 3 Standards-Based Activity Ask and Answer Questions "Cinco de Mayo"	Day 4 Writing: Expository "Cinco de Mayo"
Day 5 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Memorial Day"	Day 6 Comprehension Questions "Memorial Day"	Day 7 Standards-Based Activity Sequence "Memorial Day"	Day 8 Writing: Reflection "Memorial Day"
Day 9 Close Reading Mark up the Text "The Scavenger Hunt"	Day 10 Comprehension Questions "The Scavenger Hunt"	Day 11 Standards-Based Activity Character Traits "The Scavenger Hunt"	Day 12 Writing: Narrative "The Scavenger Hunt"
Day 13 Close Reading Mark up the Text "The Lucky Penny"	Day 14 Comprehension Questions "The Lucky Penny"	Day 15 Standards-Based Activity Central Message "The Lucky Penny"	Day 16 Writing: Opinion "The Lucky Penny"
Day 17 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Donuts with Grown-Ups"	Day 18 Comprehension Questions "Donuts with Grown-Ups"	Day 19 Standards-Based Activity Character Traits "Donuts with Grown-Ups"	Day 20 Writing: Persuasive "Donuts with Grown-Ups"

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.3.6, RI.3.8, 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