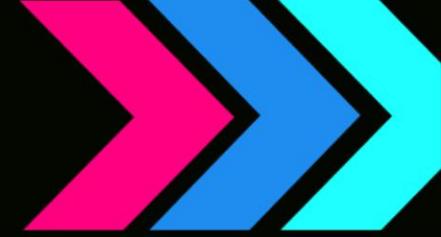


MAKE LEARNING FUN!



10 high-interest passages & activities themed to make learning engaging!

ALL ABOUT CAKES
Cakes are one of the most popular desserts and come in many varieties. Some cakes are light and fluffy, while others are dense and rich. Many cakes are frosted with layers of buttercream. Cakes also vary by flavor: vanilla, chocolate, lemon, and red velvet are examples. Cakes share a...

THE ICE CREAM SUNDAE
Ice cream parties have always been a hit, especially when the weather gets warm. There's something special about being able to pick your favorite ice cream flavors, add toppings, and then enjoy your sundae with friends and family. But did you know that the ice cream sundae has a rather divisive and surprising beginning? Back in the late 1800s, many areas in the United States had strict laws known as the...

HIRING A DJ
DJs, or disc jockeys, are an important part of parties. Their purpose is to play music that fits the mood of the event, helping to create an enjoyable environment for guests. From weddings to corporate events, DJs change their music selection to suit audiences. First, they need the ability to read the crowd and create the perfect playlist. DJs can adjust the music to fit how people feel. They may start with slower songs during dinner to let people chat, and then...

HIRING A DJ: MAIN IDEA SORT
Color each supporting detail the same color as the main idea it goes with.

MAIN IDEA #1 The importance of a DJ's music selection. red	A. They can take requests from guests, adding a personal touch to the event.	B. Professional DJs keep up with the latest technology and trends for engaging experiences.	C. A skilled DJ encourages guest participation through dance-offs or games.
MAIN IDEA #2 The equipment and technology used by DJs. yellow	D. They collaborate with event planners to understand the event theme and requests.	E. DJs read the crowd to create the perfect playlist.	F. They prevent awkward pauses by maintaining a continuous flow of music.
MAIN IDEA #3 The interaction between DJs and guests/event planners. blue	G. Many DJs incorporate visual elements like light shows and smoke machines.	H. DJs have extensive music libraries to cater to diverse musical tastes.	I. DJs act as emcees, guiding the event flow and announcing key moments.
	J. They start with slower songs during dinner and transition to upbeat tracks later.	K. Their ability to connect with the audience ensures a unique and enjoyable event.	L. DJs use turntables, mixers, and digital audio software to blend tracks seamlessly.

You can use these passages:

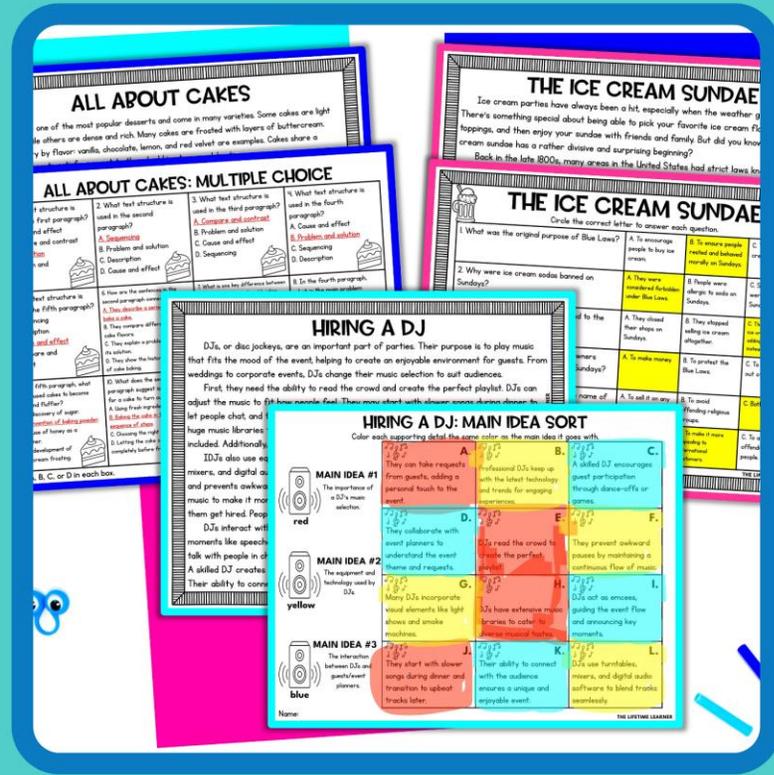
- for classroom transformations
- during your ELA block
- as partner/small group activities
- skill practice
- as assessments
- for test prep
- remediation
- enrichment
- themed days
- fast finisher activity
- and more!

WHAT'S AN ADD-ON PACK?

You can use this resource two ways:



Use the reading passages to supplement your Party Room Transformation



OR use these reading passages for students to enjoy during your ELA block on a regular day

You don't have to do a room transformation to use this resource. These 10 passages are no-prep and print & go. Use them anytime during your ELA block!

THE CONTENT:

10 high-interest passages & activities in 2 formats: hands-on & no prep!

Hands-On Centers

HISTORY OF THE CUPCAKE

The history of the cupcake (a single portion of flour, sugar, and flavorings) is a very interesting story. The first evidence of baking dates back to ancient Egyptian times in 2600 BC. But it wasn't until the 13th century that cakes were mentioned by name. At first, cakes were more dense and made with fruit or gingerbread. The first cake with a round shape and icing came in the mid-17th century. It was made with dependable ovens and food molds. The history of the cupcake continued in 1796. Amelia Simmons mentioned "a cake baked in small cups" in her cookbook, *American Cookery*. Then, in 1828, Eliza Leslie published a cookbook called *Receipts*. Eliza called the cupcake by its name. As history v bakers experimented with cupcakes. Buttercream frosting was popular in Around 1919, Hostess created the "snack cake," and cupcakes in shops were the 21st century, cupcake shops opened across the USA. This helped the cupcake industry to grow. Baking shows came on TV, allowing people to learn about popular cupcake shops. Cupcakes are enjoyed for their delicious flavors, their ease to eat, and how they are ex one serving size.

2600 BC	13th Century	1796	1828	Early 1900s	1919	Early 21st Century
First baking in ancient Egypt	Cake first mentioned	The first cake in a small cup	Cupcake first named	Buttercream frosting	First commercial cupcake	

1. According to the timeline and information in the text, what happened in Egypt in 2600 BC? Evidence of the first baking was shown. The first buttercream frosting was tried.

2. According to the timeline and information in the text, when was cake first mentioned? 12th century 13th century

3. Why was the mid-17th century important in the development of the cupcake? Technology allowed for a round cake and icing. The first commercial cupcake was created.

4. What is significant about the year 1796 when it comes to the cupcake? Eliza called the cupcake by its name. Amelia Simmons mentioned a small cake in a cup.

No-Prep Printables

THIS OR THAT: HISTORY OF THE CUPCAKE

Circle the correct answer for each question.

1. According to the timeline and information in the text, what happened in Egypt in 2600 BC?	Evidence of the first baking was shown.	The first buttercream frosting was tried.	7. According to the timeline, what happened first in baking history?	The first baking took place in ancient Egypt.	The first cake was made in a small cup.
2. According to the timeline and information in the text, when was cake first mentioned?	12th century	13th century	8. According to the timeline, in what year was the cupcake named?	1828	1838
3. Why was the mid-17th century important in the development of the cupcake?	Technology allowed for a round cake and icing.	The first commercial cupcake was created.	9. In which cookbook was the cupcake actually mentioned by name?	American Cookery	Receipts
4. What is significant about the year 1796 when it comes to the cupcake?	Eliza called the cupcake by its name.	Amelia Simmons mentioned a small cake in a cup.	10. Around what year did home bakers start to experiment with cupcakes?	Between the 13th and 17th centuries	Between 1828 and the early 1900s
5. Why is the year 1919 so important to the history of the cupcake?	Fruit cakes were invented.	Hostess created the first commercial cupcake.	11. What are cupcakes NOT known for today?	Their large serving size	Their ease to eat.
6. What phenomenon has occurred in the 21st century in regard to cupcakes?	Cupcake shops became popular in the US.	Cupcake shops became popular in Europe.	12. What helped improve cakes in the mid 17th century?	Reliable ovens and food molds	Microwaves and easy bake ovens

Name: _____

With this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete a hands-on center activity you can laminate and re-use for years to come.

Or in this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete the activity in worksheet form. This version is NO PREP and PRINT & GO! Just as much fun as the hands-on centers!

2 Versions of Every Passage Included for Students

ALL ABOUT CAKES

Cakes are one of the most popular desserts and come in many varieties. Some cakes are light and fluffy, while others are dense and rich. Many cakes are frosted with layers of buttercream. Cakes also vary by flavor: vanilla, chocolate, lemon, and red velvet are examples. Cakes share a common purpose: to satisfy a sweet tooth and add joy to our celebrations.

Baking a cake can be simple or complex. To bake a basic cake, you first mix all ingredients together. Next, the batter is poured in a pan and placed in an oven. Once baked and cooled, you can add decorations. However, more elegant cakes involve intricate layers, fillings, and designs.

There's also a debate about whether homemade cakes are better than store-bought ones. Some argue homemade cakes are fresher, made with better ingredients, and can be adapted for specific tastes. On the other hand, store-bought cakes are convenient, high-quality, and more decorative. Both types of cakes have their advantages and drawbacks.

Baking cakes can come with problems. One of the most common issues is a cake that won't rise properly, resulting in a flat dessert. This happens if the batter is overmixed or the baking powder is old. Another problem is cakes can dry out or burn if they are overbaked. To avoid this, bakers can check on the cake or adjust the oven temperature.

ALL ABOUT CAKES

Cakes are one of the most popular desserts around the world. They come in many different varieties. Some cakes are light and fluffy like angel food cake, while others are dense and rich such as pound cake. Many cakes are frosted with layers of buttercream or fondant. Some cakes are left plain or dusted with powdered sugar. Cakes also vary by flavor: vanilla, chocolate, lemon, and red velvet are a few examples. Despite these differences, cakes all share a common purpose: to satisfy a sweet tooth and add joy to celebrations.

Baking a cake can be a simple or complex process. It depends on the type of cake. To bake a basic cake, you start by mixing all ingredients together. Next, the batter is poured into a pan and placed in an oven. Once baked and cooled, you can add frosting or decorations. However, more elaborate cakes, like wedding cakes, involve intricate layers, fillings, and designs. The steps in baking a cake must be followed in order for the cake to turn out properly.

In the world of baking, there's a constant debate about whether homemade cakes are better than store-bought ones. Some argue that homemade cakes are fresher, made with better ingredients, and can be personalized for specific tastes. On the other hand, store-bought cakes are convenient, consistently high-quality, and often more decorative. Both types of cakes have their advantages and drawbacks. The choice depends on personal preference, time constraints, and skill level in the kitchen.

Baking cakes can come with problems though. One of the most common issues is a cake that doesn't rise properly, resulting in a flat dessert. This can happen if the batter is overmixed or if the baking powder is old and ineffective. Another problem is cakes can dry out or burn if they are baked too long. To avoid these issues, bakers can check the cake with a toothpick and adjust the oven temperature. By understanding these common problems, bakers can come up with solutions to make sure their cakes turn out perfectly.

The history of cakes is interesting too. In ancient times, cakes were much simpler and more like bread. They were sweetened with honey. Over time, people discovered that adding eggs, butter, and sugar improved both the texture and flavor of cakes. By the 19th century, the invention of baking powder allowed cakes to rise more easily. This led to the creation of lighter, fluffier cakes. Today, cakes have evolved into well-known, worldwide desserts.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Even though the countries of Mexico and the United States border each other, there are differences in how they celebrate birthdays. In the USA, the guest of honor celebrates their special day surrounded by friends and family. The home is decorated with balloons, streamers, and party hats. Food is important, with popular choices including pizza, barbecue, and other finger foods. A birthday cake is topped with candles showing the birthday person's age. The birthday girl or boy makes a wish before blowing out the candles. Meanwhile, the guests sing the "Happy Birthday" song. In America, turning "Sweet 16" is a big deal. It marks a young person's transition to adulthood and is celebrated with big parties. It's also the year many teenagers are able to start driving.

In contrast, birthdays in Mexico are celebrated with fiestas that reflect the country's cultural heritage. Traditional foods, such as tacos and other Mexican dishes, are served to family and friends. A unique and exciting aspect of Mexican parties is a piñata. It is made out of paper mâché and filled with candies. The child is blindfolded and armed with a bat. They attempt to break the piñata so candy can spill out for guests. Another tradition is the

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Different cultures celebrate birthdays in unique ways around the world. Even though the countries of Mexico and the United States are neighbors, there are differences in how they enjoy birthdays. In the United States, the guest of honor celebrates their special day surrounded by friends and family. The home is often decorated with balloons, streamers, and party hats. Food plays a central role in these celebrations, with popular choices including pizza, barbecue, and other finger foods that are easy to enjoy. A birthday cake is typically the centerpiece, topped with candles representing the birthday person's age. After everyone gathers around the cake, the birthday girl or boy makes a wish before blowing out the candles. Meanwhile, the guests sing the traditional "Happy Birthday" song. In America, turning "Sweet 16" is a big deal. It marks a young person's transition into adulthood and is celebrated with big parties. It's also the year many teenagers are able to start driving.

In contrast, birthdays in Mexico are celebrated with vibrant fiestas that reflect the country's rich cultural heritage. Traditional foods, such as tacos and other delicious Mexican dishes, are served to family and friends. A unique and exciting aspect of Mexican childhood birthday parties is the presence of a piñata. It is typically made out of

Differentiate and give your students the version best for them!

CENTER 1

Multiple Choice

ALL ABOUT CAKES

Cakes are one of the most popular desserts and come in many varieties. Some cakes are light and airy, while others are dense and rich. Many cakes are frosted with layers of buttercream and decorated with various toppings. Cakes vary by flavor: vanilla, chocolate, lemon, and red velvet are examples. Cakes share a common purpose to satisfy a sweet tooth and add joy to our celebrations. Baking a cake can be simple or complex. To bake a basic cake, you first mix all ingredients together. Next, the batter is poured in a pan and placed in an oven. Once baked and cooled, you can add decorations. However, more elegant cakes involve intricate layers, fillings, and designs. There's also a debate about whether homemade cakes are better than store-bought ones. Some

Name: _____

ALL ABOUT CAKES: MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. C	2. A	3. A	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

What text structure is used in the first paragraph?

- A. Cause and effect
- B. Compare and contrast
- C. Description**
- D. Problem and solution

1.



What text structure is used in the second paragraph?

- A. Sequencing**
- B. Problem and solution
- C. Description
- D. Cause and effect

2.



Hands-On Center:

Students choose A, B, C, or D on each card.



No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 2

Main Idea Sort

HIRING A DJ

DJs, or disc jockeys, are an important part of parties. Their purpose is to play music that fits the mood of the event, helping to create an enjoyable environment for guests. From weddings to corporate events, DJs change their music selection to suit audiences.

First, they need the ability to read the crowd and create the perfect playlist. DJs can adjust the music to fit how people feel. They may start with slower songs during dinner to let people chat, and then change to more upbeat tracks as the night continues. DJs have huge music libraries that allow them to play many songs. They make sure all guests feel included. Additionally, DJs can take requests. This makes guests feel more involved.

DJs also use equipment and technology to enhance the experience. They use turntables, mixers, and digital audio software to blend tracks together. This skill keeps the energy high and prevents awkward pauses. Many DJs include light shows and smoke machines with their music to make it more fun. Last, lots of professional DJs keep up with trends. This helps them get hired. People will see a DJ do something fun and want it replicated at their party.

DJs interact with guests and event planners too. A DJ acts as an emcee, announcing moments like speeches or cutting the cake. This keeps the event organized. Moreover, DJs talk with people in charge to understand the theme and make the client's dream day happen. A skilled DJ creates a lively mood by inspiring people to participate in dance-offs or games. Their ability to connect with people helps make every party exciting and memorable.

<p>Main Idea #1</p> <p>The importance of a DJ's music selection.</p>	<p>Main Idea #2</p> <p>The equipment and technology used by DJs.</p>	<p>Main Idea #3</p> <p>The interaction between DJs and guests/event planners.</p>
<p>E.</p> <p>DJs read the crowd to create the perfect playlist.</p>	<p>B.</p> <p>Professional DJs keep up with the latest technology and trends for engaging experiences.</p>	<p>K.</p> <p>Their ability to connect with the audience ensures a unique and enjoyable event.</p>
<p>A.</p> <p>They can take requests from guests, adding a personal touch to the event.</p>	<p>F.</p> <p>They prevent awkward pauses by maintaining a continuous flow of music.</p>	<p>C.</p> <p>A skilled DJ encourages guest participation through dance-offs or games.</p>
<p>J.</p> <p>They start with slower songs during dinner and transition to upbeat tracks later.</p>	<p>L.</p> <p>DJs use turntables, mixers, and digital audio software to blend tracks seamlessly.</p>	<p>I.</p> <p>DJs act as emcees, guiding the event flow and announcing key moments.</p>

Hands-On Center:

Students sort each detail onto the correct mat.

Name: _____

HIRING A DJ: MAIN IDEA SORT

Color each supporting detail the same color as the main idea it goes with.

<p>MAIN IDEA #1</p> <p>The importance of a DJ's music selection.</p> <p>red</p>	<p>A.</p> <p>They can take requests from guests, adding a personal touch to the event.</p>	<p>B.</p> <p>Professional DJs keep up with the latest technology and trends for engaging experiences.</p>	<p>C.</p> <p>A skilled DJ encourages guest participation through dance-offs or games.</p>
<p>MAIN IDEA #2</p> <p>The equipment and technology used by DJs.</p> <p>yellow</p>	<p>D.</p> <p>They collaborate with event planners to understand the event theme and requests.</p>	<p>E.</p> <p>DJs read the crowd to create the perfect playlist.</p>	<p>F.</p> <p>They prevent awkward pauses by maintaining a continuous flow of music.</p>
<p>MAIN IDEA #3</p> <p>The interaction between DJs and guests/event planners.</p> <p>blue</p>	<p>G.</p> <p>Many DJs incorporate visual elements like light shows and smoke machines.</p>	<p>H.</p> <p>DJs have extensive music libraries to cater to diverse musical tastes.</p>	<p>I.</p> <p>DJs act as emcees, guiding the event flow and announcing key moments.</p>
	<p>J.</p> <p>They start with slower songs during dinner and transition to upbeat tracks later.</p>	<p>K.</p> <p>Their ability to connect with the audience ensures a unique and enjoyable event.</p>	<p>L.</p> <p>DJs use turntables, mixers, and digital audio software to blend tracks seamlessly.</p>

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

3

Compare & Contrast

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Through the countries of Mexico and the United States border each other, there are differences in how they celebrate birthdays. In the USA, the guest of honor celebrates their special day surrounded by friends and family. The home is decorated with balloons, streamers, and party hats.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Read each card and decide where it belongs. Write each letter where it belongs in the diagram below.

USA

- The home is decorated with balloons, streamers, and party hats. **I.**
- The song "Happy Birthday" is sung as the birthday person blows out the candles. **B.**

MEXICO

- Birthdays are celebrated with lively fiestas. **G.**
- "Las Mañanitas" is the traditional birthday song sung to celebrate the guest of honor. **J.**

BOTH

- Both cultures involve gatherings of friends and family to celebrate. **F.**

- The birthday person makes a wish while blowing out the candles. **K.**
- Traditional foods served include tacos and various Mexican dishes. **L.**
- A cake is present in both celebrations, with candles to blow out. **D.**
- The birthday person makes a wish while blowing out the candles. **K.**
- Typical foods include pizza, barbecue, and other easy-to-eat items. **C.**
- The piñata, filled with candy, is an activity where the birthday child breaks it to release treats. **A.**
- A "Sweet 16" party is a special milestone celebrated with great fanfare. **H.**
- Both celebrations involve singing to celebrate the guest of honor. **E.**

Hands-On Center:

Students write the correct letter in each part of the graphic organizer.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Read each letter and decide where it belongs. Write each letter where it belongs in the diagram.

USA

- The piñata, filled with candy, is an activity where the birthday child breaks it to release treats. **A.**
- Both celebrations involve singing to celebrate the guest of honor. **E.**
- The home is decorated with balloons, streamers, and party hats. **I.**

MEXICO

- The song "Happy Birthday" is sung as the birthday person blows out the candles. **B.**
- Typical foods include pizza, barbecue, and other easy-to-eat items. **C.**
- A "Sweet 16" party is a special milestone celebrated with great fanfare. **H.**
- Traditional foods served include tacos and various Mexican dishes. **L.**

BOTH

- Both cultures involve gatherings of friends and family to celebrate. **F.**
- Birthdays are celebrated with lively fiestas. **G.**
- A cake is present in both celebrations, with candles to blow out. **D.**
- The birthday person makes a wish while blowing out the candles. **K.**

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

4

Word Search

FORGET THE BALLOONS

Use balloons for special occasions like birthdays or weddings. But balloons can be harmful to the environment and wildlife. While balloons are biodegradable, they take months to break down (5 months to 4 years). If they land in saltwater, the process takes even longer. Balloons, or trash, from old balloons can pose a danger to wildlife. Helium balloons are found floating in oceans, where they become part of the debris, or "flotsam," drifting on the water's surface. Balloon strings also may harm or death. Balloon strings also may harm or death. Balloon strings also may harm or death. Balloon strings also may harm or death.

FORGET THE BALLOONS

Search for each word in the word search.

WORD BANK

biodegradable	debris	helium
conserve	snarled	essential
mylar	marine	scarce
prohibit		

1. Able to break down naturally and return to the environment.

2. A type of shiny, metallic balloon material that doesn't break down.

3. To use something carefully and avoid wasting it.

4. In short supply or hard to find.

Hands-On Center:

Students find each word in the word search.

FORGET THE BALLOONS: WORD SEARCH

Write the answer in each box. Then, go find it in the word search.

1. Able to break down naturally and return to the environment.	2. A type of shiny, metallic balloon material that doesn't break down.	3. To use something carefully and avoid wasting it.	4. In short supply or hard to find.
5. A light gas used to fill balloons and in important technology like MRI scanners.	6. To forbid or stop something from happening.	7. Twisted together in a messy way.	8. Scattered pieces of waste or remains.
9. Related to the sea or ocean.	10. Something that is very important.		

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 5

3 Choices

THE ICE CREAM SUNDAE

Team parties have always been a hit, especially when the weather gets warm. There's something special about being able to pick your favorite ice cream flavors, add toppings, and then enjoy your sundae with friends and family. But did you know that the ice cream sundae has a rather divisive and surprising beginning?

Back in the late 1800s, many areas in the United States had strict laws known as the Blue Laws. These laws were put in place to make sure people behaved "morally" on Sundays. It was considered a day of rest and religious observance. Activities that were deemed fun, like going to the movies or enjoying certain treats, were banned on Sundays. This included having ice cream sodas, which had become popular at soda fountain shops.

Soda shop owners, who sold many ice cream sodas during the week, were not happy about losing business on Sundays. So, they came up with a clever way to get around the Blue Laws. Instead of serving the ice cream with soda, they poured chocolate sauce on top of the ice cream. Since it was no longer a soda, it didn't break the Blue Laws. Shop owners could keep selling their ice cream creations on Sundays without facing trouble.

So, the ice cream "Sunday" was born. Later, the name was changed to "sundae." Some historians believe the name was changed to avoid offending religious groups who didn't want a dessert named after a holy day. Others think the name change may have been an effort to show the dessert as something that could be eaten any day of the week, not just Sundays.

1. What was the original purpose of Blue Laws?

To encourage people to buy ice cream. **A**

To ensure people rested and behaved morally on Sundays. **B**

To promote ice cream soda shops. **C**

2. Why were ice cream sodas banned on Sundays?

They were considered forbidden under Blue Laws. **A**

People were allergic to sodas on Sundays. **B**

Soda fountains were closed on Sundays. **C**

3. How did soda shop owners respond to the Blue Laws?

They closed their shops on Sundays. **A**

They stopped selling ice cream altogether. **B**

They created a new ice cream dessert by adding chocolate sauce instead of soda. **C**

Hands-On Center:

Students put a finger on the correct answer for each question.

THIS OR THAT: PROS & CONS OF BLACK FRIDAY

Circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Which benefit of Black Friday shopping is emphasized more in the passage? Getting items at a lower price.	Spending time with family.	7. What is the main reason some people may find Black Friday stressful in person? Missing out on items because of website crashes.	Dealing with long lines and pushy shoppers.
2. What could be a reason people choose to shop online on Black Friday? To avoid crowds and long lines.	To get better discounts than in-store.	8. Which aspect of Black Friday is presented as a potential con for online shoppers? The risk of missing the best deals.	Wobbling shopping due to high traffic.
3. Which challenge is mentioned as a downside of Black Friday shopping in person? Difficulty finding parking spaces.	Stressful interactions with other shoppers.	9. What is a key factor that determines whether Black Friday is worth it for someone? How much they can handle to get deals.	How much stress they can handle to get deals.
4. What effect does starting Black Friday sales on Thanksgiving night have on shoppers? It causes them to miss family time to secure deals.	It gives them more time to plan out their purchases.	10. Why might Black Friday be considered a good time to start holiday shopping? There are many items available online.	You can take advantage of discounts and plan ahead.
5. Which option would better suit someone who doesn't enjoy dealing with large crowds? Shopping in-store early on Black Friday.	Shopping online from home.	11. Which situation would likely cause a shopper to leave their Thanksgiving dinner early? Waiting to be first in line at the store for Black Friday.	Needing to avoid bad weather on Black Friday.
6. How does the weather play a role in Black Friday shopping, according to the text? It encourages people to shop in the warmth of the stores.	It may make walking outside in line uncomfortable.	12. What is the primary reason people look forward to Black Friday based on the passage? The chance to buy gifts for friends.	The opportunity to save money on a variety of items.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 6

Color by Code

PARTY EXTRAS

As kids' birthday parties have changed, they've become more extravagant and elaborate. Gone are the simple days of playing games like **Pin the Tail on the Donkey**, **losing water balloons**, and **enjoying a modest cake with ice cream**. **Children today are asking for more fancy forms of entertainment at their parties**.

If you prefer to celebrate at home, there are many rental options available to make the event great. **Popular rentals include bounce houses, inflatable slides, ponies, clowns, and photo booths**. You can even go a step further and **rent an ice cream truck to serve treats** or invite costumed performers dressed as characters from TV shows or movies. **These rentals are meant to impress children and adults**. **Many people want their party to be memorable**.

For parents who don't want to host at home, **having a party at a place to bounce is a great option**. **Bounce house rentals are popular**. These feature inflatable bounce houses and slides, perfect for all ages. **Many people prefer a party place for convenience**, giving kids the chance to jump around and use their energy in a safe environment. **Many offer birthday packages that include an activity and space for pizza, cake, and gifts**.

Whether the party is held at home or at a special place, **birthday parties are a fun way to mark a child's life**. **Children's birthday parties have become more extravagant and elaborate**. **No matter how they're celebrated, birthday parties remain a fun and exciting way to mark another year in a child's life**.

1. Why do parents spend so much money and time on birthday parties nowadays?

Color the answer light blue.

2. According to the passage, what types of food are commonly served at birthday parties?

Color the answer yellow.

1. Color the answer red.

Hands-On Center:

Students use the coloring task card questions to color in answers in the text.

PARTY EXTRAS

As kids' birthday parties have changed over the years, they've become more extravagant and elaborate. Gone are the simple days of playing classic games like **Pin the Tail on the Donkey**, **losing water balloons**, and **enjoying a modest cake with a side of ice cream**. **Instead, children today are asking for complex forms of entertainment at their birthday parties**.

If you prefer to celebrate at home, there are many rental options available to make the event more exciting for kids. **Popular rentals include bounce houses, inflatable slides, ponies, clowns, and photo booths for capturing memories**. You can even go a step further and rent an ice cream truck to serve treats throughout the party or invite costumed performers dressed as characters from your child's favorite TV show or movie. **These rentals are designed to impress children, adults, and the parents**. **Many people want their party to be memorable and talked about by others**.

For parents who don't want to host at home, having a birthday party **at a place to bounce is a great option**. **Bounce house rentals, for example, are incredibly popular**. These venues feature multiple inflatable bounce houses and slides, perfect for children of different ages. **Many people prefer a party place for convenience**, giving kids the chance to jump around and use their energy in a safe environment. **Many offer birthday packages that include both an activity and space for the traditional pizza, cake, and gifts**.

In the end, whether the party is held at home with rented entertainment or at a special place, **children's birthday parties have become more extravagant and elaborate**. **No matter how they're celebrated, birthday parties remain a fun and exciting way to mark another year in a child's life**.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

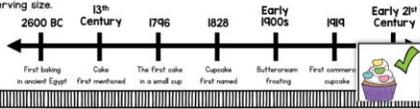
CENTER 7

This or That?

HISTORY OF THE CUPCAKE

The cupcake (a single portion of flour, sugar, and flavorings) is a very popular dessert. The first evidence of baking dates back to ancient Egyptian times in 2600 BC. It wasn't until the 13th century that cakes were mentioned by name. At first, cakes were more dense and made with fruit or gingerbread. The first cake with a round shape and icing came in the mid-17th century. It was made with dependable ovens and food molds. The history of the cupcake continued in 1796. Amelia Simmons mentioned "a cake baked in small cups" in her cookbook, *American Cookery*. Then, in 1828, Eliza Leslie published a cookbook called *Receipts*. Eliza called the cupcake by its name. As history progressed, bakers experimented with cupcakes. Buttercream frosting was popular in the 19th century. Around 1919, Hostess created the "snack cake," and cupcakes in shops were popular.

In the 21st century, cupcake shops opened across the USA. This helped the cupcake industry to grow. Baking shows came on TV, allowing people to learn about popular cupcake shops. Cupcakes are enjoyed for their delicious flavors, their ease to eat, and how they are easy to make one serving size.



1. According to the timeline and information in the text, what happened in Egypt in 2600 BC?

The first buttercream frosting was tried.

2. According to the timeline and information in the text, when was cake first mentioned?

13th century

3. Why was the mid-17th century important in the development of the cupcake?

The first commercial cupcake was created.

4. What is significant about the year 1796 when it comes to the cupcake?

Amelia Simmons mentioned a small cake in a cup.

Evidence of the first baking was shown.

13th century

Technology allowed for a round cake and icing.

Eliza called the cupcake by its name.

Students put a checkmark on the side with the correct answer after reading the passage.



No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 8

Write a Sentence

MOST EXTRAVAGANT PARTY

The most expensive party ever thrown was organized by the Shah of Iran in 1971. It celebrated the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great.

This event was held in the desert, requiring huge preparation, and the location was turned from a desert into a beautiful, 15,000 trees were planted, and 70,000 birds were brought in.

To house the guests, a tent city was built. Each tent had two bathrooms, and a kitchen. There were also staff available to serve the guests around the clock. Spread over 160 acres, this huge tent city reflected another top priority. The Shah employed 65,000 guests.

The three-day event had fancy banquets and a banquet hall with a 70-meter-long table. 600 guest chefs from across the globe multiple times the price of a top chef in today's currency, the cost of the party was believed that in today's currency, the cost of the party was \$10 billion.

Despite its grandness, the party was not without its problems. The Shah invited his own people who he ruled over or the Iranian people of the country at the time. This sparked anger across the country at a time when Iran faced economic and social issues. The event further separated him from the people he ruled over.

1. What was unique about the tent city that was built for the guests?

The tent city was unique because each tent had two bathrooms, two bedrooms, and a kitchen, along with staff available to serve the guests around the clock.

Write the answer on the blank lines.

2. What effect did bringing in 70,000 birds and planting 15,000 trees have on the environment?

Bringing in so many birds and planting trees in the desert hurt the environment because the birds couldn't survive in the heat, and many died.

Write the answer on the blank lines.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Hands-On Center:

Students write the answer to each prompt on the lines.



No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

9

Sequencing Puzzles

HOW TO MAKE A CANDLE

Candles can be a fun activity for a party or as favors for guests to take home. The process of making your own candles is pretty easy. With a few ingredients, you can customize a shape, color, and scent you like.

To start, first gather all materials and any color or fragrance you'd like to use. You'll need a heat source to melt the wax. Many people use a double boiler. Next, prepare your candle container. Secure the wick to the bottom of the container. Then, pour the melted wax into the container. Once the wax has solidified, you can add color and scent.

PUZZLE MAT

Place the puzzle pieces in order here on the mat.

Step 1 Gather all necessary materials: wax, container, wick, color, and scent.	Step 2 Choose a heat source, such as a double boiler or microwave.	Step 3 Secure the wick to the bottom of the candle container.	Step 4	Step 5
Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10

Carefully pour the melted wax into the prepared container.

Melt the wax using your selected heat source.

Add dye if you want to add color to your candle.

Stir the mixture to evenly distribute color and scent.

Hands-On Center:

Students put the puzzle pieces in chronological order.

HOW TO MAKE A CANDLE

First, read the passage. Then, put the steps in order below from #1 to #10 by writing a number at the top of each box. Put a #1 in the box that comes first and a #10 in the box that comes last.

3	7	1	9	6
A. Secure the wick to the bottom of the candle container.	B. Add dye if you want to add color to your candle.	C. Gather all necessary materials: wax, container, wick, color, and scent.	D. Carefully pour the melted wax into the prepared container.	E. Add your chosen fragrance to the melted wax.
4	8	10	5	2
F. Melt the wax using your selected heat source.	G. Stir the mixture to evenly distribute color and scent.	H. Allow the candle to cool and solidify for several hours.	I. Stir the wax continuously or at one-minute intervals.	J. Choose a heat source, such as a double boiler or microwave.

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No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

10

Cut and Paste

PLANNING MISTAKES

Planning a party is exciting, but it can also be challenging if you don't prepare. A lot of things everyone wants, but a few common mistakes can turn your party into a disaster. These problems can be avoided with a little planning.

One of the first issues party planners face is not sending out invitations early. Requests for invitations often come late, leaving guests unable to come because they're busy. To prevent this, send out invitations 2-3 weeks in advance. Another problem is overspending. It's easy to get carried away. Without a budget, you may spend more than you intended, leaving you broke and hungry and it's embarrassing. Decide how much food and drink you'll need and always better to have a little extra than to run out in the middle of the evening.

Another mistake is underestimating the amount of time needed to set up. Food prep, and entertainment can take longer than expected. If guests arrive and you're still setting up, it can be stressful. Giving yourself plenty of time to set up, or ask friends or family for help, is also an issue. Make a to-do list so you don't forget anything.

Entertainment is another key aspect. A party can fall flat if there are no activities. To prevent this, plan games, music, or a photo booth. This will keep guests entertained and prevent them from leaving early. Do not leave clean up for the next day. Plan to clean up as you go or ask for help in advance. These tips will help your next party be a success.

CUT AND PASTE

Late invitations	Glue solution here	Glue problem here	Start early and ask for help.
Glue problem here	Clearly state RSVP details on invitations.	Lack of organization	Glue solution here
Overspending	Set a realistic budget and track expenses.	Insufficient entertainment	Glue solution here
Not enough food/drinks	Glue solution here	Cleaning up	Clean as you go or arrange help for post-party cleanup.
Plan various activities to keep guests engaged.	Plan based on guest count and have extra.	Unclear RSVP instructions	Glue each problem or solution where it belongs.
Send them 2-3 weeks ahead with clear RSVP instructions.	Not enough set-up time	Use a checklist to stay organized.	

Hands-On Center:

Cut and paste each box where it belongs.

DON'T FORGET!

CUT AND PASTE

Late invitations	Send them 2-3 weeks ahead with clear RSVP instructions.	Not enough set-up time	Start early and ask for help.
Unclear RSVP instructions	Clearly state RSVP details on invitations.	Lack of organization	Use a checklist to stay organized.
Overspending	Set a realistic budget and track expenses.	Insufficient entertainment	Plan various activities to keep guests engaged.
Not enough food/drinks	Plan based on guest count and have extra.	Cleaning up	Clean as you go or arrange help for post-party cleanup.

Glue each problem or solution where it belongs.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Head over to the "no-prep printables" file if you'd like to use the print-and-go page with this activity!

PRINT & DIGITAL



Print & Go



Google Slides

Choose the format
that works best for you!

HOW TO USE THIS:

Ideas for Implementation:

- pick and choose the centers you want to use: do what works best for your class!
- give less than 10 centers to students if you are short on time
- give students the whole day to complete all 10 centers/activities OR spread the room transformation out over a couple of days
- use the hands-on centers during your room transformation and the no-prep printables as a review during your reading block

HIRING A DJ

DJs, or disc jockeys, are an important part of parties. Their purpose is to play music that fits the mood of the event, helping to create an enjoyable environment for guests. From weddings to corporate events, DJs change their music selection to suit audiences.

First, they need the ability to read the crowd and create the perfect playlist. DJs can adjust the music to fit how people feel. They may start with slower songs during dinner to let people chat, and then change to more upbeat tracks as the night continues. DJs have huge music libraries that allow them to play many songs. They make sure all guests feel included. Additionally, DJs can take requests. This makes guests feel more involved.

DJs also use equipment and technology to enhance the experience. They use turntables, mixers, and digital audio software to blend tracks together. This skill keeps the energy high and prevents awkward pauses. Many DJs include light shows and smoke machines with their music to make it more fun. Last, lots of professional DJs keep up with trends. This helps them get hired. People will see a DJ do something fun and want it replicated at their party.

DJs interact with guests and event planners too. A DJ acts as an emcee, announcing moments like speeches or cutting the cake. This keeps the event organized. Moreover, DJs talk with people in charge to understand the theme and make the client's dream day happen. A skilled DJ creates a lively mood by inspiring people to participate in dance-offs or games. Their ability to connect with people helps make every party exciting and memorable.

Main Idea #1
The importance of a DJ's music selection.

Main Idea #2
The equipment and technology used by DJs.

Main Idea #3
The interaction between DJs and guests/event planners.

E. DJs read the crowd to create the perfect playlist.

B. Professional DJs keep up with the latest technology and trends for engaging experiences.

K. Their ability to connect with the audience ensures a unique and enjoyable event.

A. They can take requests from guests, adding a personal touch to the event.

F. They prevent awkward pauses by maintaining a continuous flow of music.

C. A skilled DJ encourages guest participation through dance-offs or games.

J. They start with slower songs during dinner and transition to upbeat tracks later.

L. DJs use turntables, mixers, and digital audio software to blend tracks seamlessly.

I. DJs act as emcees, guiding the event flow and announcing key moments.

What Skills are Included?

Nonfiction Skills:

- Context Clues
- Sequencing
- Text Features
- Main Idea
- Compare & Contrast
- Text Structures
- Text Evidence
- Point of View
- Pages Reviewing Multiple Skills

ALL ABOUT CAKES

Cakes are one of the most popular desserts and come in many varieties. Some cakes are light and fluffy, while others are dense and rich. Many cakes are frosted with layers of buttercream. Cakes also vary by flavor: vanilla, chocolate, lemon, and red velvet are examples. Cakes share a common purpose: to satisfy a sweet tooth and add to a special event.

Name: _____

ALL ABOUT CAKES: MULTIPLE CHOICE

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1. What text structure is used in the first paragraph?
A. Cause and effect
B. Compare and contrast
C. Description
D. Problem and solution | 2. What text structure is used in the second paragraph?
A. Sequencing
B. Problem and solution
C. Description
D. Cause and effect | 3. What text structure is used in the third paragraph?
A. Compare and contrast
B. Problem and solution
C. Cause and effect
D. Sequencing | 4. What text structure is used in the fourth paragraph?
A. Cause and effect
B. Problem and solution
C. Sequencing
D. Compare and contrast |
|---|--|--|---|

MOST EXTRAVAGANT PARTY

The most expensive party ever thrown was organized by the Shah of Iran in 1971. It celebrated the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great. This event was held in the desert, requiring huge preparations. Planning began a year in advance, and the location was turned from a desert to a temporary city. To make the land beautiful, 15,000 trees were planted, and 70,000 birds were flown in. Many birds died.

Name: _____

MOST EXTRAVAGANT PARTY

1. What was unique about the tent city that was built for the guests?

2. What effect did bringing in 70,000 birds and planting 15,000 trees have on the environment?

3. Why was it a problem that the Shah didn't invite his own people to the party?

4. Why do you think the Shah's event was most likely both helpful and harmful?

5. Why do some experts believe the Shah's party played a big role in him losing power?

The no prep printable questions are **100% editable!**

Name: _____

ALL ABOUT CAKES: MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What text structure is used in the first paragraph? A. Cause and effect B. Compare and contrast C. Description D. Problem and solution	2. What text structure is used in the second paragraph? A. Sequencing B. Problem and solution C. Description D. Cause and effect	3. What text structure is used in the third paragraph? A. Compare and contrast B. Problem and solution C. Cause and effect D. Sequencing	4. What text structure is used in the fourth paragraph? A. Cause and effect B. Problem and solution C. Sequencing D. Description
5. What text structure is used in the fifth paragraph? A. Sequencing B. Description C. Cause and effect D. Compare and contrast	6. How are the sentences in the second paragraph connected? A. They describe a series of steps to bake a cake. B. They compare different types of cake flavors. C. They explain a problem and its solution. D. They show the history of cake baking.	7. What is one key difference between homemade and store-bought cakes, according to the third paragraph? A. Homemade cakes are always better decorated. B. Store-bought cakes are more convenient. C. Store-bought cakes always taste better. D. Homemade cakes are more affordable.	8. In the fourth paragraph, what is the main problem discussed? A. Cakes that dry out or do not rise. B. Cakes that are too sweet. C. Cakes that are not decorated well. D. Cakes that are overbaked.
9. In the fifth paragraph, what event caused cakes to become lighter and fluffier? A. The discovery of sugar. B. The invention of baking powder. C. The use of honey as a sweetener. D. The development of buttercream frosting.	10. What does the second paragraph suggest is important for a cake to turn out well? A. Using fresh ingredients. B. Baking the cake in the right sequence of steps. C. Choosing the right frosting. D. Letting the cake cool completely before frosting.	11. What is one cause mentioned in the fourth paragraph for a cake not rising properly? A. Using too much sugar. B. Old or ineffective baking powder. C. Overbaking the cake. D. Not enough frosting.	12. In the fifth paragraph, how did cakes change from ancient times to today? A. Cakes are now made with honey instead of sugar. B. Cakes are simpler and more bread-like today. C. Cakes became lighter and fluffier over time. D. Cakes have less frosting today.

Write A, B, C, or D in each box.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Name: _____

ALL ABOUT CAKES: MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What text structure is used in the first paragraph? A. Cause and effect B. Compare and contrast C. Description D. Problem and solution	2. What text structure is used in the second paragraph? A. Sequencing B. Problem and solution C. Description D. Cause and effect	3. What text structure is used in the third paragraph? A. Compare and contrast B. Problem and solution C. Cause and effect D. Sequencing	4. What text structure is used in the fourth paragraph? A. Cause and effect B. Problem and solution C. Sequencing D. Description
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Write A, B, C, or D in each box.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

edit any question!

10 Pre-Made
Centers
(Print & Go)

10 Pre-Made
Centers:
Editable Version

2 Versions Included

other resources this pairs well with:

Grab the 3-5 reading room transformation for additional passages!

Or, add in some math to your themed learning day!



PARTY»»» fiction text evidence
»»» planner

EDITABLE
ROOM TRANSFORMATION

GRADES 3-5 READING
By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a vibrant party-themed room transformation with tables covered in blue and pink cloths, decorated with colorful balloons and party hats. The text is overlaid on the top and bottom of the image.



PARTY»»» multi step WORD PROBLEMS
»»» planner

EDITABLE
ROOM TRANSFORMATION

3RD GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a vibrant party-themed room transformation with tables covered in blue and pink cloths, decorated with colorful balloons and party hats. The text is overlaid on the top and bottom of the image.



PARTY»»» multiply & divide review
»»» planner

EDITABLE
ROOM TRANSFORMATION

4TH GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner

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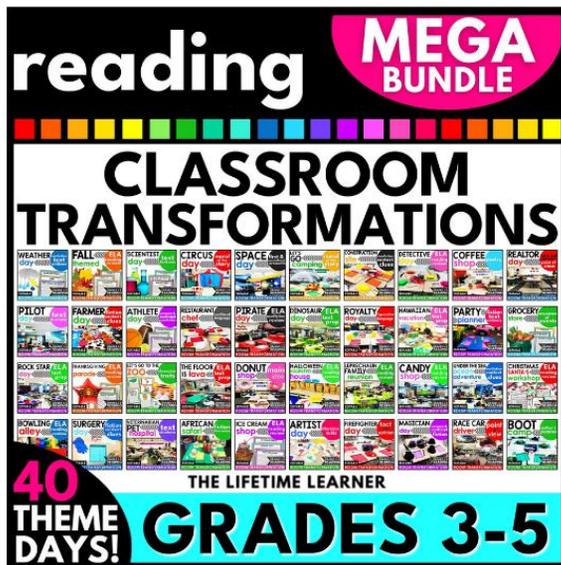


PARTY»»» add & subtract fractions
»»» planner

EDITABLE
ROOM TRANSFORMATION

5TH GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a vibrant party-themed room transformation with tables covered in blue and pink cloths, decorated with colorful balloons and party hats. The text is overlaid on the top and bottom of the image.



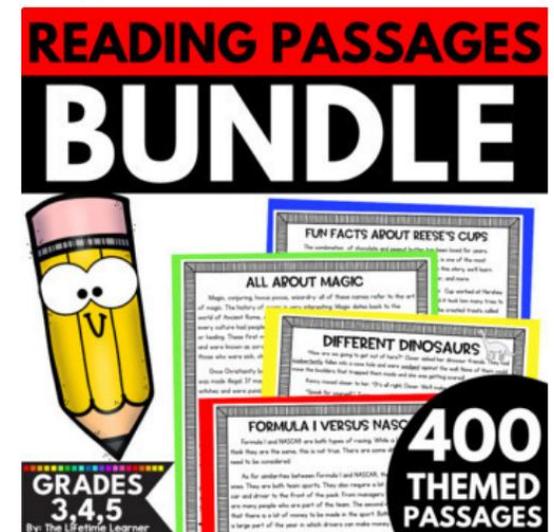
reading MEGA BUNDLE

CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATIONS

40 THEME DAYS!
THE LIFETIME LEARNER
GRADES 3-5

This resource is a grid of 40 small thumbnail images, each representing a different themed classroom transformation. The thumbnails are arranged in a grid and feature various colorful designs and text.

When you purchase a Mega Bundle, you save 50% off the price of the individual resources!



READING PASSAGES BUNDLE

400 THEMED PASSAGES

GRADES 3,4,5
By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a collection of reading passages with various themes. The cover shows several sample pages with titles like 'FUN FACTS ABOUT REESE'S CUPS', 'ALL ABOUT MAGIC', 'DIFFERENT DINOSAURS', and 'FORMULA I VERSUS NASCAR'. A cartoon pencil character is also featured on the cover.

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1st grade math



2nd grade math



3rd grade math



4th grade math



5th grade math



kindergarten math

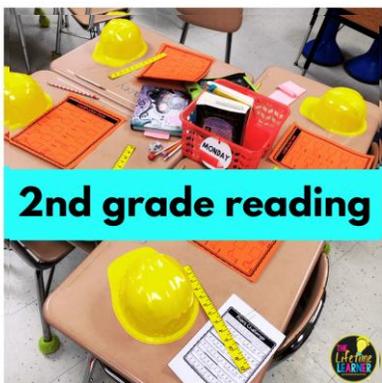
K-5 MATH & READING



kindergarten reading



1st grade reading



2nd grade reading



GR 3-5 reading comprehension



3-5 reading add-on packs



alphabet letters

Please Note:

- **This is not a stand-alone room transformation.**
- **There are no decorations included.**
- **There are 10 reading passages and activities provided.**
- **The questions are editable. The passages are not.**
- **The digital version is provided in Google Slides.**
- **This Add on Pack aligns with my math & reading classroom transformations.**
- **Let me know if you have ANY questions! You can email me at lindsaythelifetimelearner@gmail.com**