

MAKE LEARNING FUN!



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

GENTLE GIANTS
Giraffes are gentle giants loved by everyone. They can live for about 25 years in the wild or up to 40 years in captivity (living in places like zoos where they are cared for). Giraffes love hanging out with their friends. They roam in groups called towers, which usually have about 15 giraffes. Giraffes are said to have the longest necks in the animal kingdom.

WORD BANK:

- fingerprints
- hearts
- towers
- tongues
- fifteen
- acacia
- captivity
- lips
- coating
- cows

GENTLE GIANTS
A crossword puzzle with words from the word bank. The words are: COATING, ACACIA, FINGERPRINTS, and HEART.

THE PAINTED DOGS
Xander was thrilled about the safari field trip with his class. His school was in Harare, Zimbabwe. Though Harare is the largest city, much of Zimbabwe is filled with wildlife. Xander usually spent time in the city, so exploring the wild was an adventure he awaited. Early in the day, the class boarded the bus. After the teacher explained the schedule, Xander and his friend Dala played card games. After about two hours, students began

THE PAINTED DOGS

1. What is the main reason Xander was excited about the field trip?
A) He wanted to play card games with Dala.
B) He rarely got to explore the wild outside the city.
C) He liked riding the bus.
D) He had a dog.

2. Which of these was NOT mentioned as an animal the class saw?
A) Lions
B) Giraffes
C) Hippos
D) Elephants

3. What word best describes how the students felt when they saw the wild dogs?
A) Disappointed
B) Confused
C) Amazed
D) Frightened

4. What was the teacher's main purpose in explaining the wild dogs to the class?
A) To warn them about danger.
B) To share how rare and special the sighting was.
C) To tell them about other animals nearby.
D) To explain why the antelope were running.

5. What does the word "splattered" in the passage suggest about the wild dogs' fur?
A) It was neatly colored.
B) It was still damp.
C) It was shiny.
D) It was dark.

6. Which detail best shows that the field trip was a special experience for Xander?
A) Xander spent most of his time in the city.
B) The teacher explained the schedule.
C) Xander played card games with Dala.
D) Xander couldn't wait to tell his family about it.

KINGS OF BEASTS
Lions are called the kings of beasts for good reason. A full-grown lion can stand 4 feet tall at the shoulder and stretch to 6 feet in length. A lion could easily leap up and reach anything on top of a refrigerator. Male lions can weigh up to 420 pounds, while females weigh around 280 pounds. They can run up to 50 miles per hour for short distances and can crush bones easily when they catch their prey.

Lions rely on teamwork. They're mostly made of males, but lionesses lead the hunt. Lionesses are skilled hunters. Despite their fearsome reputation, they spend most of their day resting. Unfortunately, they are losing their habitat. Nearly 40% of the world's lions are in zoos. They have less places to live and are being sold for high prices on the black market.

KING OF BEASTS: THE LION
Color each detail the correct color.

A. Their powerful jaws and sharp teeth can crush bones with ease.	B. Farmers kill lions to protect their livestock.	C. They can consume up to 70 pounds of meat in a single meal.	D. Lionesses are the leaders who handle hunting, teaching, and raising the young.
E. Their roar is powerful enough to be heard from 3 miles away.	F. Male lions can weigh up to 420 pounds, while females weigh around 280 pounds.	G. Young lions have spots that disappear as they mature.	H. A pride can have up to 40 members.
I. Lions can run at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour for short distances.	J. Lions can see six times better than humans in the dark.	K. Prides are mostly made up of lionesses and cubs.	L. Expanding cities and farmland are destroying the lions' natural habitats.
M. Lion numbers have dropped by nearly 40% in recent years.	N. Male lions patrol the territory to protect the pride.	O. They can stand 4 feet tall at the shoulder and stretch about 6 feet in length.	P. Poaching for their skins, bones, and other body parts also threatens their survival.

MAIN IDEA 1: Lions are fearsome and impressive because of their size and strength. **RED**

MAIN IDEA 2: Lions live in groups called prides, relying on teamwork for survival. **YELLOW**

MAIN IDEA 3: Lions have surprising habits and abilities. **GREEN**

MAIN IDEA 4: The lion population is declining rapidly due to human threats. **BLUE**

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 Safari 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

KINGS OF BEASTS

Lions are called the kings of beasts for good reason. A full-grown lion can stand 4 feet tall at the shoulder and stretch to 6 feet in length. A lion could easily leap up and reach anything on top of a refrigerator. Male lions can weigh up to 400 pounds, while females weigh around 280 pounds. They can run up to 50 miles per hour for short distances and can crush bones easily when they catch their prey.

Lions rely on teamwork to survive. They live in groups of 2 to 40 members called prides. They're mostly made up of lionesses and their cubs. Male lions patrol to protect the pride, but lionesses lead the group. They handle the hunting, teaching, and raising of the young. Lionesses are skilled hunters who always work together to bring down prey.

Despite their fearsome reputation, lions enjoy their rest. They can sleep for up to 21 hours a day. Their roar is powerful enough to be heard from 3 miles away. Young lions have spots on their fur that fade as they grow. Lions can also see six times better than humans at night. After hunting, they can eat up to 70 pounds of meat in one meal.

Unfortunately, the lion population is shrinking fast. Their numbers have dropped by nearly 40% in recent years. The main threat comes from humans. Farmers kill lions to protect their livestock. Growing cities and farmland continue to destroy lion habitats so lions have less places to live. Poachers also kill lions for their skin and bones. They sell the lions for high prices on the black market.

MAIN IDEA 1: Lions are fearsome and impressive because of their size and strength.

MAIN IDEA 2: Lions live in groups called prides, relying on teamwork for survival.

MAIN IDEA 3: Lions have surprising habits and abilities.

MAIN IDEA 4: The lion population is declining rapidly due to human threats.

A. Their powerful jaws and sharp teeth can crush bones with ease.

B. Lionesses are the leaders who handle hunting, teaching, and raising the young.

C. Lions can run up to 50 miles per hour for short distances and can crush bones with ease.

D. Lionesses are the leaders who handle hunting, teaching, and raising the young.

E. Their roar is powerful enough to be heard from 3 miles away.

F. Male lions can weigh up to 400 pounds, while females weigh around 280 pounds.

G. Young lions have spots that disappear as they mature.

H. A pride can have 2 to 40 members.

I. Their roar is powerful enough to be heard from 3 miles away.

J. Farmers kill lions to protect their livestock.

K. Prides are mostly made up of lionesses and cubs.

L. Expanding cities and farmland are destroying the lion's natural habitats.

M. They can consume up to 70 pounds of meat in a single meal.

N. The lion population is declining rapidly due to human threats.

O. They can stand 4 feet tall at the shoulder and stretch about 6 feet in length.

P. Poaching for their skins, bones, and other body parts also threatens their survival.

No-Prep Printables

KING OF BEASTS: THE LION

Each main idea has 4 supporting details. Color each detail the correct color.

MAIN IDEA 1: Lions are fearsome and impressive because of their size and strength. **RED**

MAIN IDEA 2: Lions live in groups called prides, relying on teamwork for survival. **YELLOW**

MAIN IDEA 3: Lions have surprising habits and abilities. **GREEN**

MAIN IDEA 4: The lion population is declining rapidly due to human threats. **BLUE**

A. Their powerful jaws and sharp teeth can crush bones with ease.

B. Farmers kill lions to protect their livestock.

C. They can consume up to 70 pounds of meat in a single meal.

D. Lionesses are the leaders who handle hunting, teaching, and raising the young.

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I. Lions can run at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour for short distances.

J. Lions can see six times better than humans in the dark.

K. Prides are mostly made up of lionesses and cubs.

L. Expanding cities and farmland are destroying the lion's natural habitats.

M. Lion numbers have dropped by nearly 40% in recent years.

N. Male lions patrol the territory to protect the pride.

O. They can stand 4 feet tall at the shoulder and stretch about 6 feet in length.

P. Poaching for their skins, bones, and other body parts also threatens their survival.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

ZEBRA MYSTERIES

Scientists have been trying to figure out why zebras have stripes for years. Some thought the stripes might help zebras hide from predators, while others believed they helped keep zebras cool. A recent study, however, suggests that the stripes confuse flies. The black and white patterns create an optical illusion that makes it hard for flies to land. It causes flies to bounce off or avoid zebras altogether.

Each zebra's stripes are unique, like human fingerprints. Scientists think this might help zebras recognize each other in a herd. Some also believe the stripes could help control body temperature by reflecting different amounts of light.

Zebras are mysterious in other ways too. They don't have a permanent home and migrate hundreds of miles each year to find better food. If they stayed in one place, they would eat all the grass there. Moving around gives the land time to regrow.

Zebras also make a lot of different sounds (barks, whinnies, and brays) to communicate. Scientists believe these sounds help them warn each other about danger, find lost herd members, and share how they feel.

ZEBRA MYSTERIES

Scientists have been trying to solve the mystery of why zebras have stripes for years. Some thought the stripes might help zebras blend into their surroundings or confuse predators like lions. Others believed the stripes might help zebras stay cool by creating tiny air currents. But a recent study may have finally cracked the case! It turns out that flies are a major problem for many creatures in Africa. Flies carry diseases and are a nuisance to all animals. The black and white stripes of a zebra create an optical illusion that confuses flies, making it hard for them to figure out where or when to land. Instead of biting the zebra, the flies often bounce off or avoid it altogether.

Interestingly, each zebra's stripes are unique. They're like a human's fingerprints. Scientists are still trying to figure out why this is, but one idea is that it helps zebras recognize each other in a herd. Since zebras live in large groups, knowing who's who could be pretty important! Some researchers also think the stripes might help control a zebra's body temperature by reflecting different amounts of light.

Zebras are also mysterious in other ways. For example, they don't have a permanent home. Each year, they travel hundreds of miles across the savannas while trying to escape predators. But why not just find a safe place to stay? The answer is that zebras migrate to find better food. If they stayed in one place for too long, they would eat all the grass. This would leave nothing for the future. Moving around gives the land time to regrow.

Another zebra mystery is why they make such a wide range of sounds. Zebras bark, whinny, and bray to communicate. Scientists believe they use different sounds to warn each other about predators, find lost herd members, and express if they are upset or happy. The variety of sounds zebras use is still being studied, but it's clear that these animals are excellent at staying in touch with their herd.

One of the most fascinating mysteries about zebras is why they run in a zigzag pattern. Unlike horses, which are built for speed in a straight line, zebras aren't nearly as fast. Instead, they are much more coordinated and use that skill to their advantage. When faced with a predator, zebras dash in zigzag motions, making it hard for a lion or a hyena to catch them. This strategy, combined with their stripes, can confuse predators and give the zebra a chance to escape. With all these mysteries, it's no wonder scientists are so fascinated by zebras.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

Kaya slithered silently in her glass enclosure. Her dark eyes were fixed on the world outside. For five years, the black mamba had lived in the zoo where she was surrounded by walls and curious faces. But Kaya was tired of confinement.

Kaya was clever. She studied the zookeepers' routine and would note when the latch clicked open and the door swung wide. She watched their path each evening and planned her escape.

One humid afternoon, as a distracted zookeeper opened the door to replace her water, Kaya acted. She slipped out in a flash and glided silently into the shadows. Alarms blared, and voices echoed, but Kaya was gone. She was already sliding into the tall grass beyond the zoo's gates.

Freedom, however, was more dangerous than Kaya expected. The wild held eagles circling above, rival snakes defending their territory, and roads roaring with metal beasts. Kaya moved cautiously. Her senses were sharp.

She soon felt hungry. Prey was faster and harder to catch in the wild. Kaya found shade

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

Kaya slithered silently in her glass enclosure. Her dark eyes were fixed on the world outside. For five years, the black mamba had lived in the zoo. She was surrounded by towering walls and curious faces peering through the glass. But Kaya was tired of confinement. The scent of freedom wafted in from the gaps in the walls, bringing with it the promise of warm sun and swaying grasses.

Kaya was no ordinary snake. She was clever. Over months, she watched the zookeepers. Kaya would note the exact moment when the latch clicked open and the way the door swung wide. She studied the routine of the feeding schedule and the path the keepers took each evening. Kaya had a plan... to escape.

One humid afternoon, as a distracted zookeeper slid open the door to replace her water, Kaya put her plan into action. In a flash, she slipped out. Her sleek body glided silently across the floor and into the shadowy gaps beneath the enclosures. Alarms rang out and blared through the air. Voices echoed all around as they searched for the missing snake. But Kaya was already gone and heading into the tall grass beyond the zoo's gates.

Freedom, however, was not as simple as Kaya imagined. The wild held its own dangers: eagles that circled high

Differentiate and give your students the version best for them!

CENTER 1









Multiple Choice

THE PAINTED DOGS

Xander was thrilled about the safari field trip with his class. His school was in Harare, Zimbabwe. Though Harare is the largest city, much of Zimbabwe is filled with wildlife. Xander usually spent time in the city, so exploring the wild was an adventure he awaited. Early in the day, the class boarded the bus. After the teacher explained the schedule, Xander and his friend Dalia played card games. After about two hours, students began pointing. They were passing a river, which the teacher said was perfect for spotting animals. "Look over there!" exclaimed Dalia. "Do you see those giraffes eating the leaves?" "I see!" Xander replied. "If you look at the river, you can spot hippos taking a bath!"

Name: _____

THE PAINTED DOGS

1. A	2. B	3. C	4.
			
5.	6.	7.	8.
			

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

What is the main reason Xander was excited about the field trip?

A) He wanted to play card games with Dalia.
 B) He rarely got to explore the wild outside the city.
 C) He liked riding the bus.
 D) He was hoping to see wild dogs.



Which of these was NOT mentioned as an animal the class saw?

A) Lions
 B) Giraffes
 C) Hippos
 D) Elephants



2.

Hands-On Center:

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

THE PAINTED DOGS

Name: _____

1. What is the main reason Xander was excited about the field trip? A) He wanted to play card games with Dalia. B) He rarely got to explore the wild outside the city. C) He liked riding the bus. D) He was hoping to see wild dogs.	2. Which of these was NOT mentioned as an animal the class saw? A) Lions B) Giraffes C) Hippos D) Elephants	3. What word best describes how the students felt when they saw the wild dogs? A) Disappointed B) Confused C) Amazed D) Frightened	4. What was the teacher's main purpose in explaining the wild dogs to the class? A) To warn them about danger. B) To share how rare and special the sighting was. C) To tell them about other animals nearby. D) To explain why the antelope were running.
5. Which of the following is an inference about the setting of the story? A) The safari took place in a desert. B) The safari took place near water and open grasslands. C) The safari was in a snowy forest. D) The safari was near a busy highway.	6. Which of these best describes the main idea of the passage? A) Xander and his class saw many interesting animals on a safari. B) Xander's school took a trip to see giraffes. C) Xander was nervous about going to the wild. D) Xander and Dalia played games all day.	7. What does the word "splattered" in the passage suggest about the wild dogs' fur? A) It was neatly colored. B) It was dull and plain. C) It was colorful and brightly marked. D) It was smooth and shiny.	8. Which detail best shows that the field trip was a special experience for Xander? A) Xander spent most of his time in the city. B) The teacher explained the schedule. C) Xander played card games with Dalia. D) Xander couldn't wait to tell his family about it.

Write A, B, C, or D in each box. THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 2

Crossword Puzzle

GENTLE GIANTS

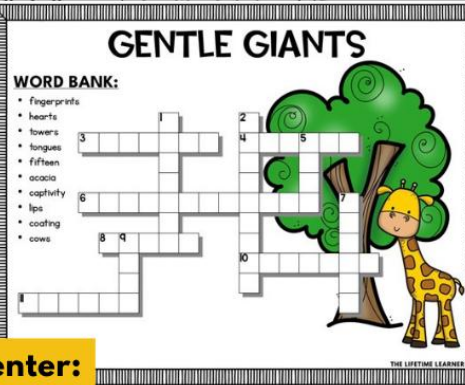
Giraffes are loved by everyone. They can live for about 25 years in the wild, but in captivity (living in places like zoos where they are cared for), they can live for up to 40 years. They roam in groups called towers.

They have about 15 spots on their bodies. Their predators like lions and leopards like to hunt them. If you like salad, you'd be surprised to know that giraffes eat and twigs every day. Their long necks reach tall branches. Their tongues are purple, black, and blue. They use their long tongues to grab leaves from tall branches. Giraffes don't just eat leaves. They also eat acacia leaves, which are full of extra-large hearts and special oils. The most impressive thing about giraffes is their extra-large hearts and special oils that rush to their heads when they are running. Each giraffe also has its own unique pattern of spots.

WORD BANK:

- fingerprints
- hearts
- towers
- tongues
- fifteen
- acacia
- captivity
- lips
- coating
- cows

GENTLE GIANTS



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

1 DOWN

How many giraffes are usually in a tower?

3 ACROSS

Giraffes have a special _____ on their tongue to protect them from thorns.

2 DOWN

When giraffes are in _____, they can live for up to 40 years.

Hands-On Center:

Students use the clue cards to fill in the crossword puzzle.

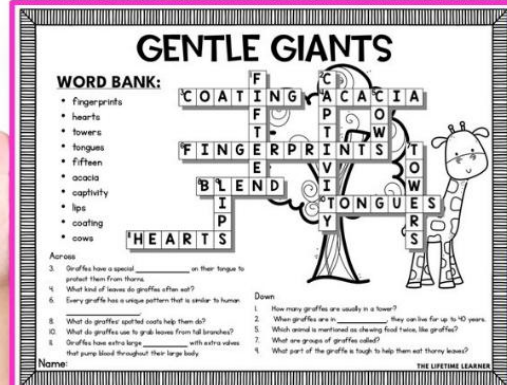
GENTLE GIANTS

Name: _____

WORD BANK:

- fingerprints
- hearts
- towers
- tongues
- fifteen
- acacia
- captivity
- lips
- coating
- cows

GENTLE GIANTS



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 3

Compare & Contrast

RHINOS AND HIPPOS

Rhinos and hippos may look similar because they are both large, but their appearance differs slightly. A hippo has thick, smooth skin with almost no hair (except for a patch on its back). In contrast, some rhinos have patches of hair on their bodies. Another big difference is hippos have no horns, while rhinos have horns. Some rhinos also have a hump near their heads, which hippos do not have. Hippos have strong teeth for fighting, while rhinos use their snouts. Some rhinos also have a hump near their heads, which hippos do not have. Hippos have strong teeth for fighting, while rhinos use their snouts. Some rhinos also have a hump near their heads, which hippos do not have. Hippos have strong teeth for fighting, while rhinos use their snouts.

Rhinos	Hippos	Both
This animal lives on land in savannas and grasslands. A.	This animal spends most of its time in water. C.	This animal is nocturnal. B.
This animal has hair patches on their ears, tail, and body. D.		This animal is a mammal. E.

Hands-On Center:

Students sort the details where they belong by comparing and contrasting.

RHINOS AND HIPPOS

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

RHINOS	BOTH	HIPPOS
H, J, D, A	E, L, B, G	K, F, I, C
Mostly celebrated in the USA A.	Loved ones visit the graves of those who have passed B.	Involves the wearing of costumes C.
Occurs on October 31 st E.	Traditions are repeated again year after year F.	A way to celebrate fun and fear G.
A way to remember and honor those who have died I.	Features food as part of the celebration J.	Mostly celebrated in Mexico K.
		Occurs on November 1 st -2 nd D.
		Centered around themes of spirits and the afterlife L.
		Loved ones go trick or treating or visit Haunted Houses H.

Name: _____

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 4

Sorting Game

ARE YOU AFRAID?

Justine and Sean gathered around the campfire and trying to outdo each other with stories about scary animals. Justine started with a story about a scorpion. Sean followed with a story about a crocodile. Justine spoke up. "Where I come from, we have cougars. I went camping with my family and we heard one screaming in the woods. It sounded like a person yelling. My sister refused to go with me. I wanted to get a picture, so I begged my parents to go hiking to find one. It was so cool to see a cougar up close!" Her eyes showed excitement. Sean leaned forward. "I'd be scared of scorpions and cougars, but have you read about crocodiles? They can grow up to 20 feet long and weigh over 2,200 pounds. I think I'll be as close to the safari guide as possible and learn about them in books instead." "Okay, your story wins!" laughed Justine as she playfully nudged Sean on the shoulder. "I'll be truthful. I'd rather deal with the scorpion!" Eric muttered as he turned red. Sean smiled. "Did you hear about the giant spiders they found near the camp?" he said to Justine. "Their webs can stretch across whole trails, and they're big enough to catch birds." Eric's eyes went wide. "Wat-seriously? Justine pulled her legs up onto the log. Sean burst out laughing. "Kidding! I wanted to see your faces." The other two grinned.

 Justine	Place 2 character traits and proof for each one from the story in these four boxes.	Trait F.	Brave
 Eric	Place 2 character traits and proof for each one from the story in these four boxes.	Proof C.	Fearful
 Sean	Place 2 character traits and proof for each one from the story in these four boxes.	Trait G.	Knowledgeable
		Proof B.	

Hands-On Center:

Students sort each card onto the correct mat.

ARE YOU AFRAID?

Each character needs 4 boxes colored in 2 character traits and 2 sentences proving evidence of the character traits.

 Sean	Blushed when admitting he was scared. A.	Shared detailed facts about crocodiles and enjoys reading. B.	Fearful	Wanted to find a cougar even after hearing its scream. D.
 Justine	Scared of the scorpion and believed Sean's spider story. E.	Brave	Knowledgeable	Made up the spider story to scare his friends. H.
 Eric	Laughed and swatted Sean's arm. I.	Mischievous	Insecure	Playful
		J.	K.	L.

Name: _____

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 5

Word Search

MONKEYING AROUND

What is the world's largest monkey lives in Africa? Baboons can weigh up to 100 pounds and stand 2-3 feet tall. As warm-blooded vertebrates, they have a backbone made of small bones called vertebrae that support their body and protect their spinal cord. If you went on a safari, you might see one (or 50) of these mammals. Baby baboons depend on their mothers to nourish and protect them for the first two years of their lives. During this time, they use different vocalizations. Scientists study these sounds, not including their hand gestures, to understand how they communicate with each other through both their hands and their voices.

Baboons travel in large groups called troops. Each troop has a leader and several members. As they move, they socialize with each other. Some species of baboons: chacma, olive, yellow, and savannas, while others prefer rocky terrain.

The biggest predator of baboons is the leopard.

WORD BANK

PREDATOR	NOURISH	HABITAT
SPECIES	TROOP	VERTEBRATE
VOCALIZATION	ELIMINATE	CONVERSE

MONKEYING AROUND

V O C A L I Z A T I O N

H L H O R J J Z N S F Z

P A N T I J E J O P S W

T R B Z Y R Q Q U E X G

I C G L Q R C T O

D T O D L I I R Z

P A A N S S E O Y

H H T T V H S O E

Q Q L O T E H P Y

A V G Z R N R F W

T E B R A T E S M

I M I N A T E L E

1. An animal that has a backbone.

2. To feed and take care of something so it can grow and be healthy.

3. To talk with someone and share ideas or information.

4. A sound made by an animal or person to communicate.

Hands-On Center:

Students find each word in the word search.

MONKEYING AROUND

V O C A L I Z A T I O N

H L H O R J J Z N S F Z

P A N T I J E J O P S W

T R B Z Y R Q Q U E X G

K Y E I C G L Q R C T O

W E Y D T O D L I I R Z

J A T P A A N S S E O Y

A Y A H H T V H S O E

Y K B Q Q L O T E H P Y

I E U A V G Z R N R F W

V E R T E B R A T E S M

W E L I M I N A T E L E

Find each word in the word search by using the clue cards.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 6

Pairs Activity

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

Kaya slipped silently in her glass enclosure. Her dark eyes were fixed on the world outside. For five years, the black mamba had lived in the zoo where she was surrounded by walls and curious faces. But Kaya was tired of confinement.

Kaya was clever. She studied the zookeepers' routine and would note when the latch clicked open and the door swung wide. She watched their path each evening and planned her escape.

One humid afternoon, as a distracted zookeeper opened the door to replace her water, Kaya acted. She slipped out in a flash and glided silently into the shadows. Alarms blared, and voices echoed, but Kaya was gone. She was already sliding into the tall grass beyond the zoo's gates.

Freedom, however, was more dangerous than Kaya expected. The wild held eagles circling above, rival snakes defending their territory, and roads roaring with metal beasts. Kaya moved cautiously. Her senses were sharp.

She soon felt hungry. Prey was faster and harder to catch in the wild. Kaya found shade under trees, drank from muddy pools, and learned to hunt hares that darted through the brush. As she grew stronger, Kaya explored further. Her dark scales blended in with the shadows. The sun warmed her back. Nights were cool and quiet. For the first time in years, Kaya was truly free. She was a hunter and no longer a prisoner behind glass.

1. Enclosure: A space that is closed off with walls or fences to keep something inside.

2. Confinement: Being kept in one place and not allowed to leave.

3. Routine: Something you do the same way every time.

4. Rival: Someone or something you compete with.

5. Territory: An area that an animal or person claims as their own space.

6. Cautiously: Doing something very carefully to avoid danger or mistakes.

Hands-On Center:

Students put the two sides together to match each question with the correct answer.

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

Match up each word with the correct definition by coloring each match a different color.

1. Enclosure: A space that is closed off with walls or fences to keep something inside.

2. Confinement: Being kept in one place and not allowed to leave.

3. Routine: Something you do the same way every time.

4. Rival: Someone or something you compete with.

5. Territory: An area that an animal or person claims as their own space.

6. Cautiously: Doing something very carefully to avoid danger or mistakes.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 7

Cut and Paste

ZEBRA MYSTERIES

Trying to figure out why zebras have stripes for years. Some thought they might help zebras hide from predators, while others believed they helped them attract mates. A recent study, however, suggests that the stripes confuse flies. The patterns create an optical illusion that makes it hard for flies to land. It's not that flies bounce off or avoid zebras altogether.

Each zebra's stripes are unique, like human fingerprints. Scientists think this might help zebras recognize each other in a herd. Some also believe the stripes could help regulate temperature by reflecting different amounts of light.

Zebras are mysterious in other ways, too. They don't have a permanent home. They migrate hundreds of miles each year to find better food. If they stayed in one place, they would eat all the grass there. Moving around gives the land time to regrow. Zebras also make a lot of different sounds (barks, whinnies, and brays). Scientists believe these sounds help them warn each other about danger, find members, and share how they feel.

Another mystery is why zebras run in zigzag patterns. Unlike horses, zebras don't run in a straight line, but they are more coordinated. When predators chase them, they dash in zigzags to confuse them. This clever move, with their stripes, makes it harder for lions or hyenas to catch them. It's no wonder scientists are so fascinated by zebras.

ZEBRA MYSTERIES

Name: _____

Flies are confused by the optical illusion of zebra stripes so _____	Glue effect here	Glue cause here	the land gets time to regrow grass.
Each zebra's stripes are unique so _____	Glue cause here	scientists think this might help zebras recognize each other in a herd.	Glue effect here
Some scientists believe stripes reflect different amounts of light so _____	Glue cause here	the stripes might help control a zebra's body temperature.	Glue effect here
Since zebras migrate each year, _____	Glue effect here	Zebras can't run fast in a straight line so they _____	Glue effect here
run in zigzag patterns to confuse predators.	Some scientists believe stripes reflect different amounts of light so _____	Each zebra's stripes are unique so _____	Glue each cause or effect where it belongs.
_____	_____	_____	_____

Hands-On Center:

Cut and paste each box where it belongs.

ZEBRA MYSTERIES

Name: _____

Flies are confused by the optical illusion of zebra stripes so _____	they bounce off or avoid zebras altogether.	Zebras move around instead of staying in one place so _____	the land gets time to regrow grass.
Each zebra's stripes are unique so _____	scientists think this might help zebras recognize each other in a herd.	Zebras make a lot of different sounds so _____	they can warn each other about danger, find lost herd members, and share how they feel.
Some scientists believe stripes reflect different amounts of light so _____	the stripes might help control a zebra's body temperature.	Zebras can't run fast in a straight line so they _____	run in zigzag patterns to confuse predators.
Since zebras migrate each year, _____	they can find better food and avoid eating all the grass in one place.	Zebras dash in zigzags when chased by predators so _____	it is harder for lions or hyenas to catch them.

Glue each cause or effect where it belongs.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 8

Write a Sentence

AKINYI HELPS

_____ then rode with her mom, a safari van driver, to see the wildlife of Kenya. She was watching elephants, giraffes, and zebras. After one safari tour, Akinyi and her mom began driving home as the sun dipped low. Suddenly, Akinyi spotted something on the road.

"Mom, stop the van!" she shouted, eyes wide.

Her mom quickly pressed the brakes. "What is it, Akinyi?"

"There's something in the road. I think it's hurt!" Akinyi said.

Her mom gasped. "Oh no, it's an antelope. Stay in the van." Akinyi pressed her face against the glass, watching the antelope.

After a moment, her mom waved for her to come out. The antelope was lying on the road. Akinyi knelt beside the antelope and gave it comfort. Soon, a truck arrived.

"We can't just leave it!" Akinyi said, fists clenched.

"We won't," her mom assured her, dialing Yuri, a wildlife veterinarian who lives near the road. Akinyi and her mom stayed with the antelope until the truck arrived. The volunteers lifted the antelope onto a stretcher. Akinyi knelt beside the antelope and gave it comfort. Soon, a truck arrived.

"You did the right thing calling me," he said. "Let's see if we can help." Akinyi smiled. "Thanks to you, I think it has a good chance. We'll take it home."

AKINYI HELPS

Name: _____

1. She is compassionate and quick to take action.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Write the answer to each prompt on the lines.

1. What does the way Akinyi reacts to seeing the injured antelope reveal about her character?

Write the answer on your reading sheet.

Hands-On Center:

Students write the answer to each prompt on the lines.

AKINYI HELPS

Name: _____

1. What does the way Akinyi reacts to seeing the injured antelope reveal about her character?
2. Why did Akinyi's mom tell her to stay in the van at first, and what does that show about her mother?
3. What can you guess about the challenges wildlife conservationists like Yuri face based on the passage?
4. Why might poachers target antelopes specifically for their horns?
5. What impact does the arrival of Yuri and the volunteers have on the mood of the story?
6. What is the main lesson or theme of the passage based on Akinyi's actions?

Write the answers to the questions in each box in complete sentences.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 9

Sorting Game

KINGS OF BEASTS
Lions are called the kings of beasts for good reason. A full-grown lion can stand 4 feet tall at the shoulder and stretch to 6 feet in length. A lion could easily leap up and reach anything on top of a refrigerator. Male lions can weigh up to 420 pounds, while females weigh around 280 pounds. They can run up to 50 miles per hour for short distances and can crush bones easily when they catch their prey.
Lions rely on teamwork to survive. They live in groups of 2 to 40 members called prides. They're mostly made up of lionesses and their cubs. Male lions patrol to protect the pride, but lionesses lead the group. They handle the hunting, teaching, and raising of the young. Lionesses are skilled hunters who always work together to bring down prey.
Despite their fearsome reputation, lions enjoy their rest. They can sleep for up to 21 hours a day. Their roar is powerful enough to be heard from 3 miles away. Young lions have spots on their fur that fade as they grow. Lions can also see six times better than humans at night. After hunting, they can eat up to 70 pounds of meat in one meal.
Unfortunately, the lion population is shrinking fast. Their numbers have dropped by nearly 40% in recent years. The main threat comes from humans. Farmers kill lions to protect their livestock. Growing cities and farmland continue to destroy lion habitats so lions have less places to live. Poachers also kill lions for their skin and bones. They sell the lions for high prices on the black market.

 MAIN IDEA 1: Lions are fearsome and impressive because of their size and strength.	A. Their powerful jaws and sharp teeth can crush bones with ease.	 MAIN IDEA 2: Lions live in groups called prides, relying on teamwork for survival.	D. Lionesses are the leaders who handle hunting, teaching, and raising the young.
 MAIN IDEA 3: Lions have surprising habits and abilities.	E. Their roar is powerful enough to be heard from 3 miles away.	 MAIN IDEA 4: The lion population is declining rapidly due to human threats.	H. A pride can have 2 to 40 members.
	C. They can consume up to 70 pounds of meat in a single meal.		B. Farmers kill lions to protect their livestock.
			F. Male lions can weigh up to 420 pounds, while females weigh around 280 pounds.
			G. Young lions have spots that disappear as they mature.
			I. Lions can run at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour for short distances.
			J. Lions can see six times better than humans in the dark.
			K. Prides are mostly made up of lionesses and cubs.
			L. Expanding cities and farmland are destroying the lion's natural habitats.
			M. Lions have surprising habits and abilities.
			N. The lion population is declining rapidly due to human threats.
			O. They can stand 4 feet tall at the shoulder and stretch about 6 feet in length.
			P. Poaching for their skins, bones, and other body parts also threatens their survival.

Hands-On Center:

Students sort each card onto the correct mat.











No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 10

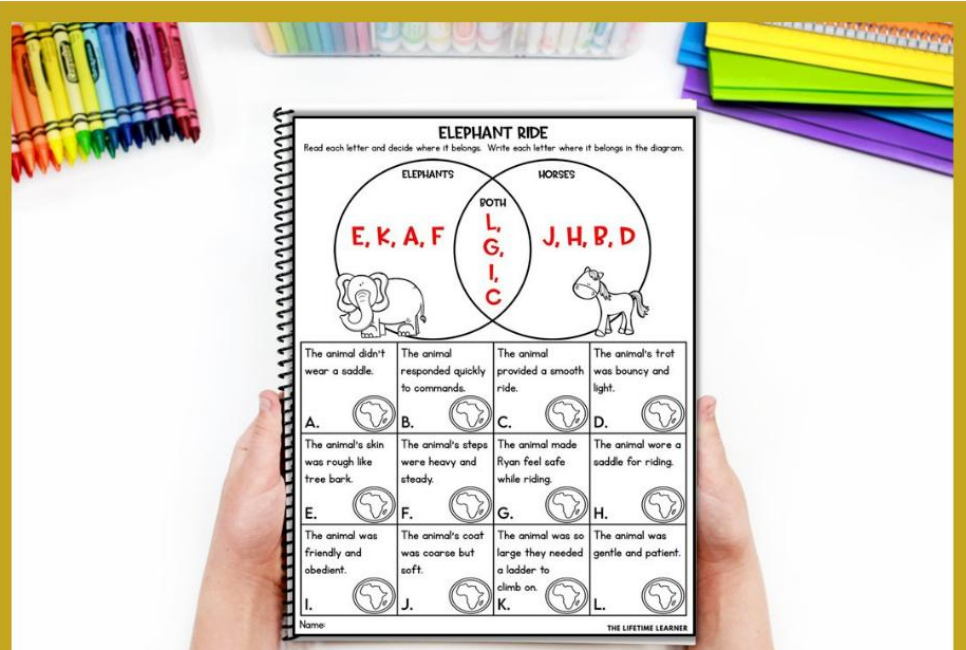
Compare & Contrast

Elephant Ride
Ryan was excited about riding an elephant. When his parents announced their safari, the first thing he asked was if he could ride one. His dad smiled and said yes. Ryan's excitement soared. The day of exploring, safari day arrived. Ryan expected to ride in a big, boring vehicle, but instead, he saw a guide named Kai bring six horses instead. They would be riding horses.
Ryan climbed onto his huge horse named Roo with his dad's help. The horse was big but soft. She trotted obediently beside Kai's horse. At first, Ryan was nervous, but as they rode, he became smoother. Before long, they reached the elephant and approached the elephant he would ride. The elephant's skin was wrinkled and they needed a ladder to climb onto its back since it didn't have a saddle. Ryan was friendly but didn't always follow commands quickly.
When they started to move, Ryan noticed how different it was from riding a horse. The elephant's skin was rough and steady, not bouncy like a trot. Its wrinkled skin felt like tree bark. Despite their differences, both animals were gentle and patient. By the end of the day, Ryan couldn't stop smiling. Riding an elephant was a unique experience. Ryan couldn't wait to tell his friends back home.

 Elephants	 Horses	 Both
The animal didn't wear a saddle.	The animal responded quickly to commands.	The animal provided a smooth ride.
A. 	B. 	C. 
The animal's skin was rough like tree bark.	The animal made Ryan feel safe while riding.	
E. 	G. 	

Hands-On Center:

Students sort the details where they belong by comparing and contrasting.

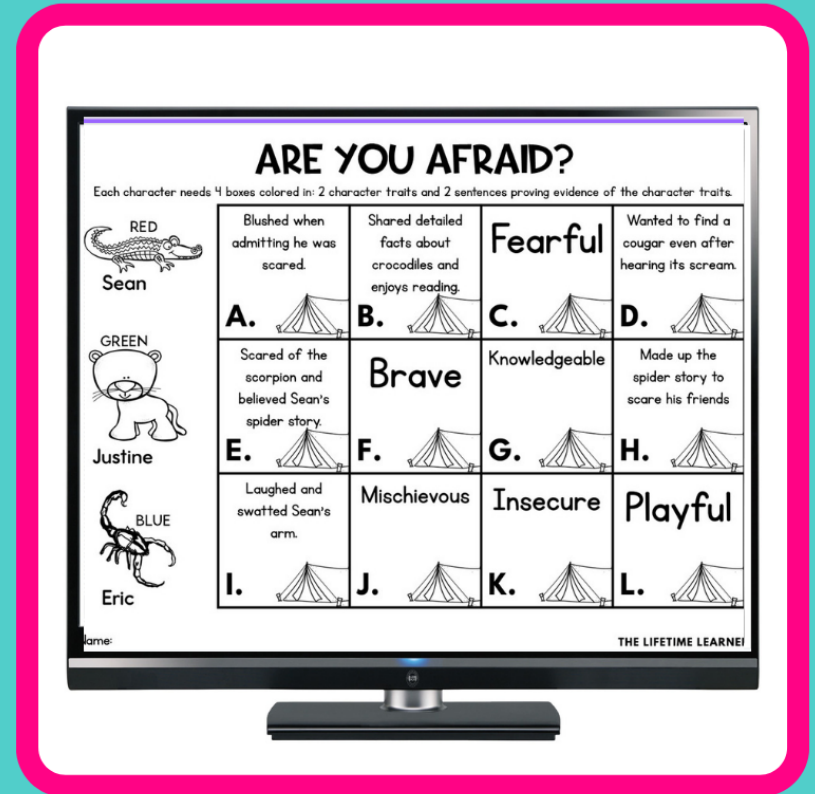


No Prep Printable Worksheet!

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

KINGS OF BEASTS

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THE LIFETIME LEARNER

MAIN IDEA 1:
Lions are fearsome and impressive because of their size and strength.

MAIN IDEA 2:
Lions live in groups called prides, relying on teamwork for survival.

MAIN IDEA 3:
Lions have surprising habits and abilities.

MAIN IDEA 4:
The lion population is declining rapidly due to human threats.

A. Their powerful jaws and sharp teeth can crush bones with ease.

F. Male lions can weigh up to 420 pounds, while females weigh around 280 pounds.

E. Their roar is powerful enough to be heard from 3 miles away.

C. They can consume up to 70 pounds of meat in a single meal.

D. Lionesses are the leaders who handle hunting, teaching, and raising the young.

H. A pride can have 2 to 40 members.

B. Farmers kill lions to protect their livestock.

L. Expanding cities and farmland are destroying the lion's natural habitats.

What Skills are Included?

Reading Skills:

- Fiction Text Evidence
- Lesson/Message
- Character Traits
- Fiction Context Clues
- Fiction Compare & Contrast
- Nonfiction Text Evidence
- Main Idea
- Cause & Effect
- Nonfiction Compare & Contrast
- Nonfiction Context Clues





THE ESCAPE ARTIST

Kaya slithered silently in her glass enclosure. Her dark eyes were fixed on the world outside. For five years, the black mamba had lived in the zoo where she was surrounded by walls and curious faces. But Kaya was tired of confinement.

Kaya was clever. She studied the zookeepers' routine and would note when the latch

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

Match up each word with the correct definition by coloring each match a different color.

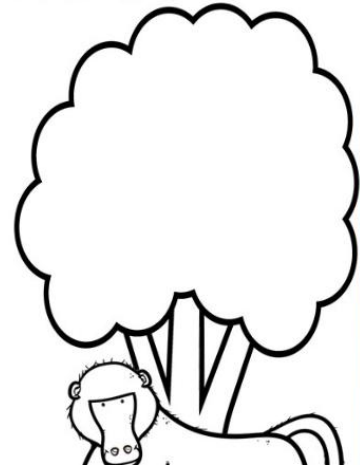
1.		4.			H.		F.
----	---	----	---	---	----	---	----

MONKEYING AROUND

Did you know that the world's largest monkey lives in Africa? Baboons can weigh between 30-80 pounds and stand 2-3 feet tall. As warm-blooded vertebrates, they have a backbone made of small bones called vertebrae that support their body and protect their spinal cord. If you went on a safari, you might see one (or 50) of these mammals.

MONKEYING AROUND


V O C A L I Z A T I O N
H L H O R J J Z N S F Z
P A N T I J E J O P S W
T R B Z Y R Q Q U E X G
K Y E I C G L Q R C T O
W E Y D T O D L I I R Z
J A T P A A N S S E O Y
A Y A H H T T V H S O E
Y K B Q Q L O T E H P Y



The no prep printable questions are 100% editable!

Name: _____

THE PAINTED DOGS




1. What is the main reason Xander was excited about the field trip? A) He wanted to play card games with Dalia. B) He rarely got to explore the wild outside the city. C) He liked riding the bus. D) He was hoping to see wild dogs.	2. Which of these was NOT mentioned as an animal the class saw? A) Lions B) Giraffes C) Hippos D) Elephants	3. What word best describes how the students felt when they saw the wild dogs? A) Disappointed B) Confused C) Amazed D) Frightened	4. What was the teacher's main purpose in explaining the wild dogs to the class? A) To warn them about danger. B) To share how rare and special the sighting was. C) To tell them about other animals nearby. D) To explain why the antelope were running.
5. Which of the following is an inference about the setting of the story? A) The safari took place in a desert. B) The safari took place near water and open grasslands. C) The safari was in a snowy forest. D) The safari was near a busy highway.	6. Which of these best describes the main idea of the passage? A) Xander and his class saw many interesting animals on a safari. B) Xander's school took a trip to see giraffes. C) Xander was nervous about going to the wild. D) Xander and Dalia played games all day.	7. What does the word "splattered" in the passage suggest about the wild dogs' fur? A) It was neatly colored. B) It was dull and plain. C) It was randomly and brightly marked. D) It was smooth and shiny.	8. Which detail best shows that the field trip was a special experience for Xander? A) Xander spent most of his time in the city. B) The teacher explained the schedule. C) Xander played card games with Dalia. D) Xander couldn't wait to tell his family about it.

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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Name: _____

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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!



AFRICAN safari fiction illustrations

EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION

GRADES 3-5 READING

By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a table set with a green tablecloth, several tan safari hats, and red baskets containing reading materials. The background shows shelves with colorful items.



AFRICAN safari area & perimeter

EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION

3RD GRADE MATH

3.MD.5-8

By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a table set with a green tablecloth, several tan safari hats, and red baskets containing math materials. The background shows shelves with colorful items.



AFRICAN safari area and perimeter

EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION

4TH GRADE MATH

4.MD.3

By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a table set with a green tablecloth, several tan safari hats, and red baskets containing math materials. The background shows shelves with colorful items.



AFRICAN safari math review

EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION

5TH GRADE MATH

5.MD.1-5
5.G.1-4

By: The Lifetime Learner

This resource features a table set with a green tablecloth, several tan safari hats, and red baskets containing math materials. The background shows shelves with colorful items.



reading MEGA BUNDLE

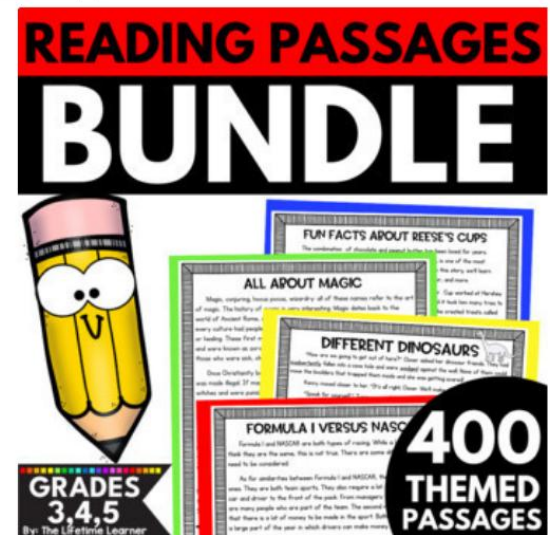
CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATIONS

40 THEME DAYS! GRADES 3-5

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

This bundle includes a grid of 40 different themed classroom transformation cards, such as Weather, Fall, Scientist, Circus, Space, and more. Each card shows a preview of the room setup for that theme.

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 bundle includes several sample reading passages 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.

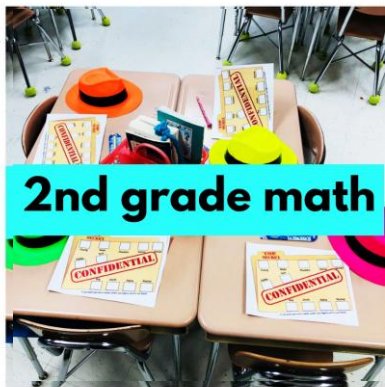
Add On Pack Bundle!

classroom transformations

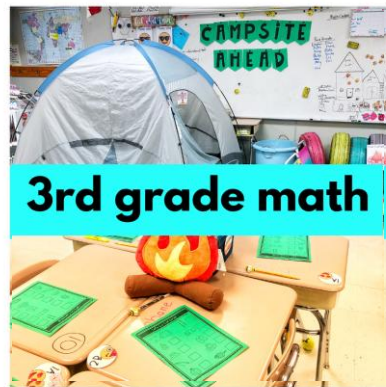
low prep, fun, and engaging!



1st grade math



2nd grade math



3rd grade math



4th grade math



5th grade math



kindergarten math

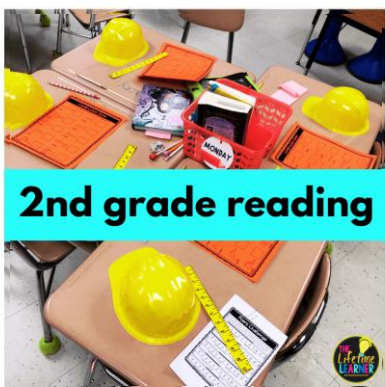
K-5 MATH & READING



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**