

The Nearest Star

The sun is our nearest star.
It gives us light by day.
Though it doesn't look too far,
It's ninety-three million miles away.

The sun is made of burning gases.
They are our source of heat.
All around us this warmth passes
growing plants we eat.

The sun's size is as normal as it gets
for a star out there in space.
Though it looks like it rises and sets,
it never leaves its place.

The Earth moves around the sun
on a path called an orbit.
How could you ever have any fun
without light energy from it?



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "The Nearest Star".
You may look back in the text for answers or
clues.

1. What is our nearest star?

2. How far away is the sun?

3. How does the size of the sun compare to other
stars?

4. How do the burning gases of the sun help you?

5. How does the sun help plants?

Stars Are NOT . .

Stars are many amazing things, but there are also things that stars are NOT. Stars are not small. In fact, even the smallest stars are huge! Scientists sort stars by their size. The largest are called giants. The smallest are called dwarf stars. The smallest star that we know about is bigger than the planet Jupiter!

Stars are not all white. In fact, stars come in many different colors. Stars can be blue, orange, yellow, white, or even red. Their color tells us how hot or cold they are. Blue stars are the hottest. Think of the blue flame burning on a gas stove. Red stars are the coldest. This is different for us because we usually think of red as hot.

Stars are not tiny dots of light. They only seem that way because they are so very far away. The sun is our closest star. If you wanted to travel to the next closest star, you would have to find a spaceship that could travel at the speed of light. Then, it would take you four years to reach it!

Stars are not shaped like this picture.



They are round like spheres. We only draw them this way because of how they look when they twinkle in the sky. Stars are many great things, but they are never small, all white, close by, or pointy.

Name _____

Answer these questions about “Stars Are NOT . .”. You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How do scientists sort stars?

2. Why do stars look like tiny dots of light?

3. What is odd about the colors of stars?

4. How long would you travel at the speed of light to reach our next closest star?

5. What is wrong with thinking that a star looks like this illustration?

Dreaming of Space

This summer, my grandma took me to see something amazing. We were on vacation in Florida. Grandma smiled when she asked me if I would like to visit the Kennedy Space Center. She knows that I love the night sky. She even bought me a telescope for my birthday this year.

"Would I like to visit the Space Center?" I shouted. "Grandma, you rock!" She smiled when I said that.

So the next day, we loaded up the van and drove to the Space Center. Our tour guide was a real expert. He told us many cool facts. He took us to see the control center. There were so many computers! We got to see the launch pad where the space shuttle and other rockets blast off. They showed us some pictures and movies of astronauts in space. I even got to climb inside a model of a space ship. There were so many buttons. I don't know how the astronauts remember which ones to push.

When the tour was over, Grandma and I headed back to our hotel room. She asked me if I enjoyed the trip. I said, "Thanks for a special day. I know what I am going to do when I fall asleep tonight. I will be dreaming of space!"



Name _____

RL.2.1

Answer these questions about "Dreaming of Space". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is the setting of this story?

2. Why did she say, "Grandma, you rock!"?

3. What clues told you that the girl loves space?

4. Where did they see lots of computers?

5. Why will she be dreaming of space tonight?

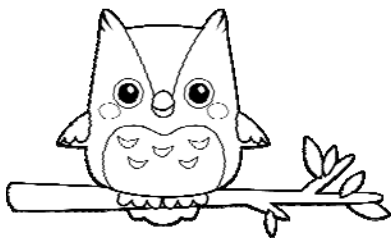
The Great Horned Owl

The Great Horned Owl is the most common owl in North America. It can be found living in the Arctic tundra, the desert, the rainforest, and in backyards. They like to nest in tree holes, stumps, caves, and even other birds' old nests.

They are called the Great Horned Owl because they have little tufts of feathers that look like horns. Some people think they look a little like cats' ears. They are usually tan and white and have large yellow eyes.

Their eating habits are very strange. They will eat just about anything—even skunks! They mostly feed on mice, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, and other birds. Most always, they swallow their food whole! Later, they will cough up an owl pellet. This pellet will be made of the bones and fur of the animal they ate!

If you want to see or hear a Great Horned Owl, it is best to look for them at sunrise or sunset. They hunt at night, but they are easier to find at these times. You can also listen for their well known cry of "Hoo H'hoo".



Name _____

Answer these questions about "The Great Horned Owl". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is one thing that the Great Horned Owl eats?

2. When is the best time to look for this owl?

3. Why is it named the Great Horned Owl?

4. Name one place that these owls will nest.

5. What is inside of an owl pellet?

Name _____

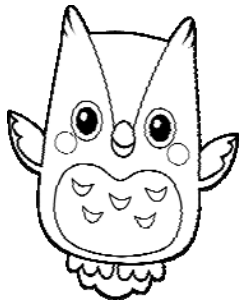
Little Hoot Learns to Fly

One day deep in the forest, Mother Owl was getting worried. Her baby, Little Hoot, would not try to fly. She had tried everything. She had let him watch her fly. She had told him what to do so that he could fly. She told him how brave he was and how much fun flying would be for him, but he still wouldn't try.

"I want to stay in this nest forever!" cried Little Hoot. "I am never going to fly!"

Mother Owl was so upset. All of the other little owls were flying around the woods, but her Little Hoot was still sitting in the nest. She thought that a short flight might help her think of an idea.

As she took off from the nest, she didn't see the large golden eagle circling in the sky. Little Hoot saw it though. He cried out, "Mother, look out for the eagle!" She was only thinking of her problem and she didn't hear him. "Oh no! What should I do?" asked Little Hoot. Little Hoot ran back and forth in his nest. The eagle had seen his mother and was flying towards her. "I have to warn my mother!" Little Hoot shouted as he flew out of the nest.



"Mother, there's an eagle!" he shouted as he flew. She saw the eagle and dove for cover. Little Hoot had saved his mother and learned to fly all in one day!

Answer these questions about "Little Hoot Learns to Fly". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why was Mother Owl getting worried?

2. Where did this story take place?

3. Why didn't Little Hoot want to fly?

4. What are the two problems in this story?

5. How are these problems solved?

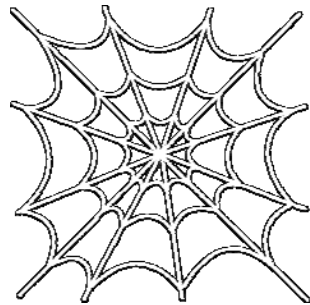
Wonderful Webs

Webs can be wonderful things to watch. You can learn a lot about the spider and its prey just by watching its web. Not all spiders make these beautiful webs though. Sometimes only young or female spiders spin webs.

All spiders make silk. Some use the silk for climbing, egg sacs, or wrapping up their prey. Other spiders use it mostly for building a web. Inside of the spider's body the silk is a liquid. It will harden when it touches the air. Spiders can make their silk sticky, dry, or stretchy. Their silk is very strong. It is as strong as a string of steel that is the same size.

Spiders use their webs for trapping prey. Insects or other small animals climb, fly, or fall into their webs. They get stuck. As they thrash around trying to get loose, the spider feels them moving the web. Then, the spider runs to them, bites them, and wraps them up. The spider's bite will turn the inside of their body to liquid. Spiders cannot chew and swallow their food. So, they drink it instead.

Webs come in all shapes and sizes. Some have patterns. Others are messy. Some are even shaped like tunnels. No matter how they are made, webs are wonderful!



Name _____

Answer these questions about "Wonderful Webs". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why did the author write this text?

2. Why do spiders turn their prey into a liquid?

3. What are some other reasons spiders make silk?

4. How strong is spider's silk?

5. How can webs be different?

Name _____

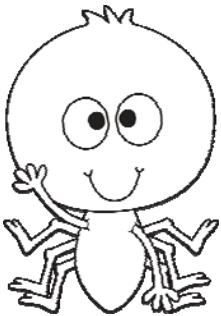
How Anansi Got His Thin Legs An African Folktale

One day, Anansi the short legged spider was walking around. He smelled some food cooking at rabbit's house. He went to visit rabbit. Rabbit was cooking greens over a fire, and invited Anansi to stay and eat. Anansi said, "I have things to do, but I have an idea. I will tie a web around my leg and attach it to the pot. When the greens are ready, just pull the web and I will come running." Rabbit agreed.

Anansi kept walking. Soon he smelled more delicious food. Monkey was cooking some beans but they weren't ready yet. He invited Anansi to stay and eat. Anansi said, "I have things to do, but I have an idea. I will tie a web around my leg and attach it to the pot. When the beans are ready, just pull the web and I will come running." Monkey agreed.

Anansi kept on walking and dragging his webs behind him. He soon smelled his favorite food cooking. Warthog was making sweet potatoes with honey but they weren't ready yet. He invited Anansi to stay and eat. Anansi said, "I have things to do, but I have an idea. I will tie a web around my leg and attach it to the pot. When the potatoes are ready, just pull the web and I will come running." Warthog agreed.

All day long Anansi visited friends and smelled their delicious foods cooking. He had a web tied to each of his eight legs. Suddenly, rabbit pulled on the web. Then, monkey and warthog did the same. Everyone's food was ready at the same time! Greedy Anansi was pulled eight different ways! His legs would forever be long and thin!



Answer these questions about "How Anansi Got His Thin Legs". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What were Anansi's legs like at the beginning of the story?

2. Why couldn't Anansi wait for the food to be ready?

3. What did Anansi ask all of his friends to do?

4. How many friends did Anansi visit that day?

5. What happened to make Anansi's legs long and thin?

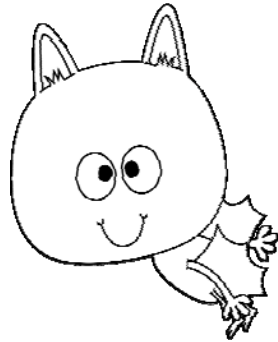
Big Differences in Bats

All bats have a few things in common. They are all flying mammals. They have furry bodies and wings covered with skin. When they rest, they hang upside down. They mostly fly at night.

However, bats can be very different. Fruit bats are very large. They look like flying foxes. They have small ears, large eyes, and a large nose. They use their big eyes and nose to see and smell the ripe fruit that they eat. When they rest, they like to hang in trees. You can see them sleeping during the day in the trees.

Brown bats are different from fruit bats. They have very large ears. They use their ears to find their way. Brown bats use echolocation (ek-o-lo-ka-shun). This means they make a high pitched sound with their mouths. They listen for its echo with their large ears. They have a tiny nose and little eyes. They don't use their sense of sight and smell very much. They mostly eat insects. When they rest, they like to sleep in caves or other dark places. You will hardly ever see a brown bat during the day.

These bats may be a lot alike, but their differences make them special.



Name _____

Answer these questions about "Big Differences in Bats". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

List two ways that a fruit bat is different from a brown bat.

1. _____

2. _____

List two ways that a brown bat is different from a fruit bat.

3. _____

4. _____

List at least one way that these two bats are the same.

5. _____

Billy Bat Needs a Friend

"Good morning, class! We have a new student joining us today!" said Mrs. Hippo.

The class turned to the door and saw a big, furry bat walking into the room.

"Boys and Girls, this is Billy Bat. I know you will all help him feel welcome in our school," said Mrs. Hippo, their teacher.

"He's not sitting by me!" whispered Zack Zebra.

"Me neither! Bats creep me out!" added Greg Giraffe.

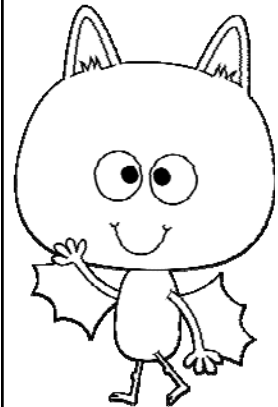
Billy had to take a seat in the back of the room. No one even smiled at him or said hello. At lunch, everyone kept telling him, "Sorry, this seat is saved." He had to sit at the table next to the class. Dora Dog began to chant, "Billy drinks blood. Billy drinks blood." Soon the other students joined her in teasing him. Billy felt all alone. He knew that he didn't drink blood. He wasn't a vampire bat!

When they went out to play for recess, there were bugs flying all around. "Ow, that horse fly just bit me!" shouted Zack Zebra.

"I can help you," whispered Billy. He began to fly around and eat all of the insects. Soon the playground was free of bugs.

"Thanks, Billy! I didn't know you ate bugs. That was really cool!" said Greg Giraffe.

"Would you like to play with us?"



Name _____

Answer these questions about "Billy Bat Needs a Friend". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why did the class turn to the door?

2. Why didn't Greg Giraffe want to sit by Billy Bat?

3. How did the class treat Billy at lunch that day?

4. Why did Billy feel like he was all alone?

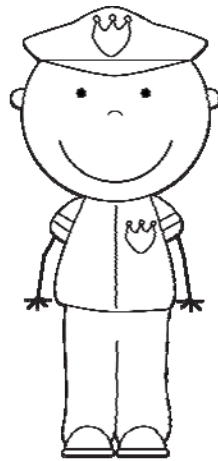
5. What happened to change what Greg Giraffe thought of Billy?

Red Ribbon Week's Hero

Red Ribbon Week began in 1985 after the death of a police officer named Kiki Camarena. He was working very hard to keep drugs from coming into the United States of America. He wanted to make sure that drugs were kept away from kids so that their dreams could come true. Sadly, drug dealers killed Kiki so that they could keep moving drugs into the country.

Kiki's friends were very sad about the loss of their friend. They wanted to do something to honor him. So, they decided to wear red ribbons. The red ribbon reminds us all that drugs are very dangerous.

Using drugs can keep your dreams from coming true! Maybe you want to be a famous ball player. You can't play your best if your body is sick from using drugs. Maybe you want to be a vet. You can't help animals if you can't get out of bed and go to work.



Maybe you want to be a police officer, too. You can't be a police officer if you are in jail for buying drugs. Drugs can ruin your life and your dreams. Kiki Camarena knew that! He wanted to keep drugs away from you. So, we wear red ribbons to remember what he tried to teach us all. Drugs kill dreams!

Name _____

Answer these questions about "Red Ribbon Week's Hero". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Who was Kiki Camarena?

2. What did Kiki's friends want to do?

3. How could drugs keep you from becoming a teacher?

4. How could drugs keep you from being a famous ball player?

5. Why do Americans wear red ribbons during the last week of October?

Candy Corn

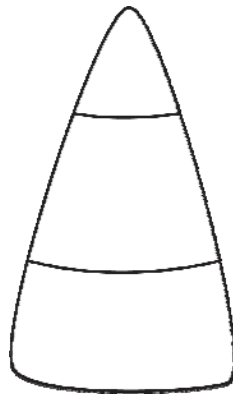
Candy Corn was invented in the 1880s. Then, it was slowly made by hand. Now, factories use computers to run huge kitchens. One factory can make more than 2 billion pieces of candy corn in a year!

When they make the candy corn, they first blend sugar and corn syrup together in huge tubs. Then, they whip the blended sugar with gelatin and air. This makes the liquid fluffy. Next, they add fondant, a kind of marshmallow cream. They tint the liquid with orange or yellow food coloring.

The liquid is now ready to take shape. Large trays with tiny corn shaped molds are blasted with corn starch. This will keep the liquid from sticking to the mold. Then, three pumps squirt in the three colors of liquid candy. White goes first. Then, orange is added. The yellow goes in last.

The trays are carried to a place where they can cool and dry for 24 hours. After that time, the candy is popped out of the mold and polished to make each piece shiny.

The candy is poured into bags, sealed up, and shipped to the stores for people to buy in the fall. So, before you bite into your next piece of candy corn see if you can remember how it is made.



Name _____

Answer these questions about "Candy Corn". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why is 2 billion an important number in this text?

2. What happens after they add fondant to the mix?

3. Why do they spray corn starch on the molds?

4. Why is candy corn shiny when you get it at the store?

5. How is candy corn made differently now than it was when it was invented?

Pumpkin Carving

"Buy one pumpkin. Get another pumpkin for free!" Brian read aloud. "Hey mom! If we buy a pumpkin, can I give the free one to Mrs. Carter?" Brian asked.

"Of course!" Mom replied.

Later that day, Brian toted the heavy pumpkin over to his neighbor, Mrs. Carter's house. She was old and lived alone. Brian enjoyed visiting her. Mrs. Carter was surprised to see Brian carrying a pumpkin.

"Why I haven't carved a jack-o-lantern since I was a little girl! This will be fun!" she exclaimed. "Let me show you how my father taught me to carve its face."

"First, we cut a hole in the top and scoop all of the insides into a big bowl. We can toast the seeds in the oven later for a yummy snack! Next, will you draw a jack-lantern face on this piece of paper, Brian?"

"Do you want a funny face or a scary face, Mrs. Carter?" asked Brian.

"The scarier the better," she said with a laugh. When Brian finished his drawing, Mrs. Carter taped the paper onto the pumpkin and Brian used a push pin to trace his lines by poking holes through the paper and into the pumpkin.



When Mrs. Carter removed the paper, Brian's picture was there. She carefully used a knife to trace the dots. The pieces fell out one by one. Mrs. Carter lit a candle and Brian turned out the lights. They stood back and smiled as they looked at their pumpkin.

Name _____

Answer these questions about "Pumpkin Carving". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why do you think Brian wanted to give a pumpkin to Mrs. Carter?

2. How long had it been since Mrs. Carter carved a jack-o-lantern?

3. How did Mrs. Carter learn to carve a pumpkin?

4. Why do you think Mrs. Carter lit the candle?

5. What do you think Mrs. Carter said to Brian as they stood back and looked at their pumpkin?

Name _____

Trick or Treating

"Chris, what are you going to be for Halloween?" asked my buddy David.

"I don't know yet. My mom said it has to be something with light colors. Light colors help other people see you once it gets dark outside. So, I think I might be a ghost," I replied.

"Do you want to meet at my house before we go trick-or-treating?" I asked David.

"Sure! I will bring some flashlights and extra glow sticks!" said David.

"Good thinking," I said. "We will need those so that we can see where we are going and so that drivers can see us, too."

"Where do you want to go first?" David asked.

"Let's go to your grandmā's house and then we can go see my Uncle Joe. We shouldn't go to houses of people we don't know," I answered.

"I wonder what kind of candy we'll get this year. I want lots of chocolate. I know I don't want any raisins or apples!" laughed David.

"Well, I'm hoping for a bag full of lollipops and candy corn. Whatever we get, we won't eat any of it until our parents check it. We want to be safe on Halloween." I told David.



Answer these questions about "Trick or Treating". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Who are the main characters in this story?

2. Why will David bring flashlights and glow sticks?

3. Why is Chris planning to wear light colors?

4. Whose houses will they visit first? Why?

5. Why do you think they are they going to ask their parents to check their candy?

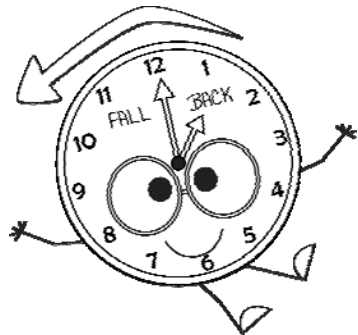
Daylight Saving Time

You might be wondering why we set our clocks back for one hour in the fall. There are several reasons why we change our clocks.

First, in the fall, the sun rises later than it does in the spring and summer. So, we change our clocks to match with the time the sun rises. This helps keep you from having to leave for school when it is still dark outside.

Secondly, it give us more daylight in the evening during fall and winter. This comes in handy if you have ball practice or other outdoor activities in the evening.

Lastly, most states began setting their clocks back to save energy. If it is still light outside closer to your bedtime, you are less likely to need to turn on the lights in your house. More daylight means you use less power.



Changing can be hard at first. It can be hard to sleep and wake up on time for a little while. You will get used to it, but then we will change the time again in the spring!

Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about “Daylight Saving Time”. You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How many reasons did the author give for changing our clocks?

2. How is daylight saving time helpful to you if your football practice starts at 7:00 PM?

3. Why will you probably use less power during daylight saving time?

4. How do you know that NOT ALL 50 states use daylight saving time?

5. How can changing the time be hard for you?

Veterans Day

Veterans Day began in 1954. They chose to celebrate Veterans Day on November the 11th each year. November 11th is the day that the first World War ended.

This day was set aside to give us a special time to honor our veterans. Veterans are the men and women who served or are serving in the armed forces. The United States has five branches of armed forces. A veteran could have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or the Coast Guard.

Soldiers can be honored in many ways on Veterans Day. If you know a veteran, a simple thank you will mean a lot to them. You could write a letter and send it to a soldier who is serving our country right now. Many towns have parades to honor their veterans.

Our country enjoys many freedoms. Our soldiers help us and others to be free. They work hard day and night to protect us and other people who need help. Veterans Day is the perfect time to thank them for their service to our country.



Name _____

Answer these questions about "Veterans Day". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why is Veterans Day celebrated on Nov. 11th?

2. Who can be a veteran?

3. How can you honor a veteran on Veterans Day?

4. What do soldiers do for you and for others?

5. Do you know a veteran? What idea do you have for honoring that person this year?

A Brave Man

Uncle Frank is now an old man, but once he was a brave young soldier. There was a big war going on all over the world. Frank wanted to help protect his country. So, he signed up to join the Air Force.

Being in the Air Force was tough! He had to work hard to train his body. He had to go to lots of classes to train his mind. He had to have lessons on how to fly a plane. Frank worked hard at all of these things. After a while, Frank was ready for his first mission.

The Air Force sent Frank to France. He was going to fly a plane that would drop bombs on the enemy. It would be very dangerous! Frank was scared, but he did what had to be done. His first mission was a success!

Frank flew 22 missions like that one. He was lucky because he never got hurt or killed. Some of Frank's friends were not as lucky.

Frank still likes to tell stories about his days in the Air Force. We love to listen to them because that helps us honor Frank and his service to our country.



Name _____

RL.2.1

Answer these questions about "A Brave Man". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why did Frank join the Air Force?

2. What was going on in the world when Frank signed up?

3. What kinds of hard things did Frank have to do?

4. Who is telling this story? How do you know?

5. Why does the author listen to Frank's stories?

Votes for Women

As a young lady during the Civil War, Susan B. Anthony helped work to end slavery in the south. While she working on that, she met a lady named Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The two ladies became friends and decided to focus their work on helping women win the right to vote. At the time, only men were able to vote in elections.

She worked all of the time. She wrote for newspapers and magazines. She gave speeches all over the country. She carried signs and marched in parades. She even met with President Teddy Roosevelt to talk about votes for women.

Sadly, Susan B. Anthony would die in 1906 without ever having the right to vote. However, 14 years later, the United States would grant women the right to vote. In 1979, the United States Mint put Susan B. Anthony's face on the one dollar coin. She was the first women to ever be shown on a coin in our country.

Now, women all over America can vote if they choose to do so. They all owe Susan B. Anthony and her friends a big thank you for all of their hard work.



Name _____

Answer these questions about "Votes for Women". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What did Susan B. Anthony do during the Civil War?

2. Who was allowed to vote when Susan B. Anthony was alive?

3. Why do you think she worked so hard to win the right to vote?

4. How long after her death were women were given the right to vote?

5. How did the United States honor Susan B. Anthony's work for the right to vote?

Name _____

Voting with Papa

"Would you like to come with me to vote today, Katie?" asked Papa.

"I sure would. I have never been to vote before," Katie answered.

Papa and Katie got in his truck and drove to the fire station in town. Katie had lots of questions.

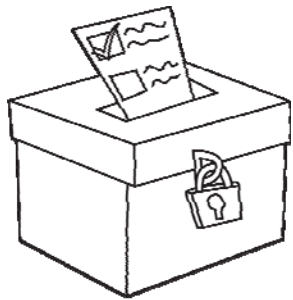
"Who can vote, Papa? Am I old enough?" she asked.

"I am afraid not, little one. You have to be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen if you want to vote. It will be about 10 more years before you can vote," he replied.

"Oh well, I guess I will have to wait," she sighed.

Papa opened the fire station's door and walked down a hall. Papa had to sign in and show the poll workers proof that he was on the voter list. They handed him a ballot. It was a piece of paper with boxes and names on it.

Papa said, "Now, Katie, I have been thinking long and hard about who I am going to vote for in this election. My vote is a secret. So, I am going to go in this booth, pull the curtain, and check the names of the people I want to choose."



After he did that, he came out and dropped his ballot into a locked box. He smiled at Katie and said, "Thank you for coming with me. I am glad that you got to see how one of our best freedoms works."

Answer these questions about "Voting with Papa". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Who are the main characters in this story?

2. Who can vote in a U.S. election?

3. Where did Papa go to vote?

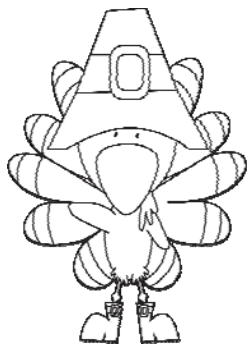
4. Why do you think Papa pulled a curtain?

5. Would you like to go with someone to vote? Why or why not?

Name _____

Terrific Turkey Trivia

1. Wild turkeys can fly and usually sleep in the low branches of trees.
2. Tame turkeys are usually too fat to fly!
3. Wild turkeys eat acorns, seeds, insects, and berries.
4. Male turkeys are called toms. They grow a long tuft of feathers called a beard. You can tell how old they are by the length of their beards.
5. Wild turkeys have dark feathers. They can change the color of the skin around their beak from gray to red, white, or blue if they get scared or upset!
6. The flap of skin that hangs from a turkey's beak is called a snood.
7. Male turkeys can fan out their feathers just like a peacock.
8. Coyotes, foxes, and raccoons are predators of the turkey.
9. Only male turkeys make the "gobble gobble" sound. They are often called gobblers for this reason.
10. Turkeys do not have teeth. They swallow small stones. These stones grind up food in their stomach.



Answer these questions about "Terrific Turkey Trivia". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How can you tell the age of a male turkey?

2. What is odd about the skin around a turkey's beak?

3. How are male turkeys like peacocks?

4. Where should you look for wild turkeys at night?

5. Why do turkeys swallow small stones?

Name _____

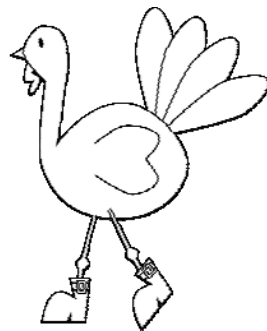
Turkey Tracks

Tom Turkey knew that trouble was coming. Turkey season was starting and the woods were full of hunters. Last year, he heard some hunters talking about turkey calls. He learned not to gobble back when he heard a call. It was very hard not to make a sound, but he survived hunting season by staying quiet.

This year, he wandered past an old cabin. He heard two hunters talking about seeing some turkey tracks nearby. Tom looked down. "Oh no, even if I am quiet, I can't hide my tracks! They will be able to find me and follow me! I have to think of a plan!" Tom thought to himself.

He happened to notice a pair of old hiking boots on the back porch of the cabin. One of the hunters had gotten his boots muddy and had taken them off before walking inside.

Tom tiptoed up to the porch and slid his bony bird feet into the boots. They were heavy but he was able to walk in them. Tom walked deeper into the woods. He whispered, "Ha ha, Hunters! Have fun finding my tracks now!" Tricky Tom giggled as he walked away in his heavy, muddy boots.



Answer these questions about "Turkey Tracks". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What type of story is this? How do you know?

2. What was Tom's problem in this story?

3. How did Tom find out that the hunters were looking for turkey tracks?

4. How did Tom solve his problem?

5. Why was Tom giggling as he walked away?

Name _____

Pilgrim Children

The children who came to America aboard The Mayflower were used to working hard. Their families had to work hard at the worst jobs when they lived in Holland. Now that they had crossed the Atlantic Ocean, there was even more work to be done.

Once the men built some of the main buildings for the new colony, the women and children left the ship and began their daily chores. Some of the chores were the same for boys and girls. The fire in their homes needed to be kept going all of the time. They used the fire to heat their home and to cook their food. The children would tend the fires and gather firewood. They did not have pipes that brought water inside. The children would have to fetch water in buckets and bring it home.

Boys often tended to animals and helped their fathers in the fields. Growing vegetables, rye, and corn is very hard work. It could be very tiring for a young boy!



The girls usually helped their mothers by milking goats, grinding spices, cooking meals, and watching after the younger children. Both boys and girls had little time to play games. They had to work in order to survive in this new land.

Answer these questions about "Pilgrim Children". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why were these children used to hard work?

2. Which chores did both boys and girls have in common?

3. What was the main chore of the Pilgrim boys?

4. What did Pilgrim girls do to help their mothers?

5. Which chore would you have been willing to help do? Which chore would you dislike the most?

No Potatoes or Pumpkin Pie?

Many families will soon gather for a Thanksgiving feast. They will serve turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, corn, potatoes, green beans, and more. Were these foods served at the first Thanksgiving though?

History tells us that the governor sent four men on a fowling trip. This meant that they were hunting for birds. They could have gotten turkeys, but they could also have brought back duck, goose, or swan for their meal. We also know that venison or deer meat was on the menu because the tribe of Native Americans brought five deer as a gift. This was written in several journals.

They most likely ate a lot of fish or shellfish, too. Lobster, clams, and oysters were easy to catch or find. The pilgrims ate these very often.

They also probably ate fresh berries like blueberries and cranberries. They would not have sweetened them with sugar though. The sugar that they had brought with them was gone. This probably meant no dessert, too!

Potatoes were not served because they had never even heard of them yet. If they served corn, they probably had ground it into cornmeal and boiled it to make mush.

As you can see, the Pilgrims' feast was very different from our idea of a feast today.



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "No Potatoes or Pumpkin Pie?". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What did the pilgrims probably do to their corn?

2. How do we know that the pilgrims ate deer?

3. Why didn't they have mashed potatoes?

4. Why didn't they have cranberry sauce?

5. Would you rather eat their meal or yours?
Why?

Name _____

I'm Thankful

I'm thankful for each little wonderful thing
like roses and tulips that bloom in the spring.

I'm thankful for clouds that go floating by.
I'm thankful for rain that falls from the sky.

I'm thankful for a sun that gives light to my day.
I'm thankful for fresh air when I go out to play.

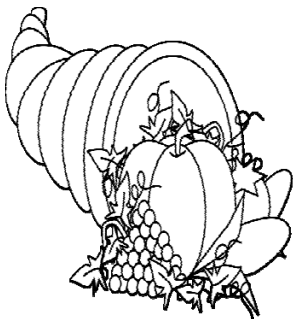
I'm thankful for birds that sing and tweet.
I'm thankful for good, healthy foods to eat.

I'm thankful for shelter so I keep warm and dry.
I'm thankful for friends when I laugh or I cry.

I'm thankful for stars that shine in the night.
I'm thankful for loved ones who hug me so tight.

I'm thankful for animals who make me smile.
I'm thankful for rest after working a while.

I'm thankful for many things you can see.
Mostly I'm thankful for you and for me.



Answer these questions about "I'm Thankful".
You may look back in the text for answers or
clues.

1. How did the author put the lines in order?

2. Why was the author thankful for shelter?

3. What words were repeated often in this poem?

4. How many lines make up this poem?

5. What lines would you add to this poem?

Name _____

Help a Neighbor

The local food bank is running low on food. The holiday season is coming up and many of our citizens will be needing food from the food bank. You can help restock the shelves and feed the hungry.

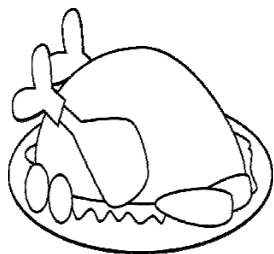
They are in need of the following items:

- canned vegetables
- canned fruit
- rice
- pasta
- coffee and tea
- canned soup
- boxed meals (like Hamburger Helper)
- crackers
- sauces (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise)
- canned meat (tuna, chicken)

Other items:

- toilet paper
- paper towels
- paper plates
- plastic forks and spoons

If you can donate any of these items, please bring them by the food bank.
Open Mon. - Fri. 10:00 - 6:00



Answer these questions about "Help a Neighbor". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why does the food bank need help?

2. Where should you bring items you are donating?

3. What kinds of sauces do they need?

4. Name two items on this list that are not a food.

5. Why do you think the food bank did NOT ask for fresh fruit like strawberries and bananas?

Name _____

Squanto's Corn

The pilgrims would not have been able to feed themselves if they had not made a friend named Squanto. Squanto was a Native American but had also lived in England. So, he spoke English very well.

Squanto knew many things and taught the pilgrims what he knew. He showed them how to make traps for animals. He showed them which wild growing berries they could eat. Most importantly, he showed them how to grow corn. The pilgrims had never seen corn and had never grown it before.

Squanto knew that the land had been planted with corn many times. It needed food for itself if it was going to grow a big crop of corn. So, he showed the pilgrims how to dig up the soil. Then, dig a small hole in the soil. Next, they added corn kernels. Last, he put two small dead fish on top of the kernels. The dead fish would give vitamins to the soil. The corn would grow taller and bigger if the soil was rich with vitamins.



The pilgrims owed Squanto thanks for many things. He was a loyal friend to them. He helped to feed them by teaching them how to grow corn in this land that was so new to them.

Answer these questions about "Squanto's Corn". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What else did Squanto teach the pilgrims to do besides plant corn?

2. Why did Squanto add fish when he was planting corn?

3. Why was Squanto able to talk to the pilgrims?

4. How did Squanto help feed the pilgrims?

5. How did Squanto know that this soil needed vitamins before planting?

Name _____

Sacagawea

Sacagawea (Sah-cah-jah-wee-ah) was a young lady when she was asked to lead some explorers west. White explorers were just beginning to make maps of the United States. Two men named Lewis and Clark had been sent by the president to draw maps of the rest of the country and try to make friends with the tribes who lived there. Sacagawea agreed to help them however she could.

In November of 1804, Sacagawea and her husband joined their group and headed west. She was a great help to the group of explorers. She taught them which plants they could eat and which ones were poisonous to people. Once when their boat turned over, she saved many important papers and supplies. She was also a symbol of peace to the tribes that they met. She was able to speak with them and explain their mission.

In February of 1805, Sacagawea had a baby boy. She carried him for the rest of the hard journey. Ten months later, they reached the Pacific Ocean. The explorers had become very good friends with Sacagawea. After her death, Clark adopted and raised her two children. In 2000, the United States featured her on the dollar coin to honor her bravery and hard work.



Answer these questions about “Sacagawea”. You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What were explorers just beginning to do?

2. Why had Lewis and Clark come west to explore?

3. When was Sacagawea’s son born?

4. Name one way that Sacagawea helped Lewis and Clark with their trip.

5. How do you know that Clark was Sacagawea’s friend?

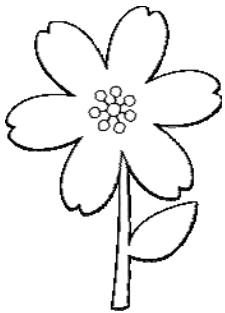
Name _____

Legend of the Cherokee Rose

Many years ago, the Cherokee tribe lived happily in the land of their people. They had made treaties with the new settlers and hoped that would keep the peace. Then, someone found gold on their land. Everything changed. Soldiers came to tell the Cherokee that they must leave their homes and go live in the west.

The journey was sad and long. Many Cherokee got sick and died. The soldiers treated them badly. One night, the old men sat around the campfire and cried out to the Great Spirit for help. The Great Spirit said, "I have heard your cries. Tomorrow tell the women to look back where their tears have fallen on the trail. When they look back, they will see a small plant growing. It will give them strength for the coming day."

The next day, the Cherokee looked and growing from the ground were lovely flowers. Each flower had five white petals to remind them of their tears. The center was gold to remind them of the greed that took them from their homes. The stem had seven leaves to remind of them of the seven clans of the Cherokee tribe.



Though many years have now passed, the flower still remembers the brave Cherokee and tells their story to all who see it.

Answer these questions about "Legend of the Cherokee Rose". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What happened to end the peace between the settlers and the Cherokee tribe?

2. What sad things happened along their journey?

3. Who did the old men cry out to by the fire?

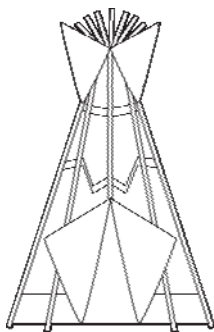
4. Why does the flower have a gold center?

5. Why do you think the Cherokee Rose is the state flower of Georgia?

Name _____

Tribes of the Great Plains

Tribes and Their Locations.....	p. 1
Hunting on the Plains.....	p. 5
Following the Buffalo.....	p. 7
Clothing	p. 9
Weapons and Tools.....	p. 13
Plants and Crops	p. 15
Horses	p. 17
Family Life.....	p. 19
Customs	p. 22
Life of Children.....	p. 25



Answer these questions about “Tribes of the Great Plains”. You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is the title of the book for this table of contents?

2. What do you think the chapter called “Customs” will be about?

3. On which pages can you find out about how the tribes dressed?

4. What information can be found on pages 5-6?

5. Where should you look if you want to know how their children lived long ago?

Name _____

Totem Poles

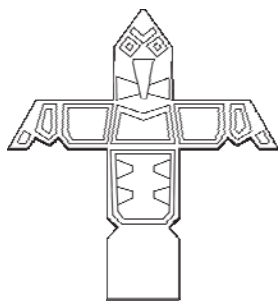
Some tribes of the Pacific Northwest used to carve totem poles from cedar trees. The carvings often showed bears, eagles, ravens, or even people. You cannot tell the meaning of the pole unless you know its history.

Most totem poles were made for a reason. Some poles were made to stand in front of a home. It can even be a part of the house and help hold up the roof. These totems usually tell the story of the family who lives there.

Other poles were made to honor someone. When a tribe's chief died, they would carve a totem pole in his honor. They would carve pictures that told about his life.

Every now and then, totem poles were carved to make fun of someone. If a member of the tribe had done something wrong or foolish, they would carve the story into a pole and place it outside of his house. These were sometimes called shaming poles.

Today artists carve totem poles to sell to tourists and other people to place in their homes or gardens.



Answer these questions about "Totem Poles". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What were totem poles made from?

2. Who makes totem poles today?

3. Why did some people put totem poles in front of their home?

4. What would be on a pole that honored a chief?

5. What are shaming poles?

Name _____

Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore was built to honor the first 150 years of American history. The faces of four presidents were carved into a mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota. They chose to carve the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln because they were all presidents who helped keep America united and moving west.

Each of the faces is over 60 feet tall. Most classrooms have ceilings that are 10 feet high. So, chances are that each face is as high as six of your classroom.

The workers began carving the statues in 1927 and the work kept going until 1941. That means it took many workers about 15 years to finish their work. They were supposed to carve each of the presidents down to their waists, but they ran out of money to finish the project. So, to this day, we only have their faces on Mount Rushmore.

Mount Rushmore is a very popular park and tourist area. More than three million people come to see the carving each year. The carving has also been shown in two very famous movies. Maybe you can go see it someday!



Answer these questions about "Mount Rushmore". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Where is Mount Rushmore?

2. How did they choose which presidents to put on Mount Rushmore?

3. Why didn't they finish carving Mount Rushmore?

4. How do you know that people like to go see Mount Rushmore?

5. Would you like to go visit someday? Why or why not?

Name _____

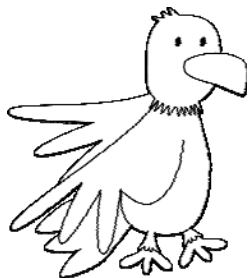
Bald Eagle or Turkey?

When America was just beginning, the leaders were trying to choose a symbol for the new country. They had different opinions about what the national bird should be. Let's see who you would agree with on this topic.

Benjamin Franklin believed that our national bird should be the wild turkey. He said that the bald eagle was not a hard working bird. It often perched in tall trees and waited to steal food that was caught by other birds. It could be a coward and was easily chased away by much smaller birds. He said that the turkey would be a better choice because it was truly an American native bird. It fed the first settlers. Turkeys can be very brave and will attack anyone who enters its farmyard no matter how big they are. He thought that the turkey would be the better choice.

William Barton, the man who designed the seal of the United States, chose to use the bald eagle in his work. He chose the eagle because of its long life, great strength, and proud look. At the time, people thought that bald eagles only lived in America. The eagle also has great freedom. It usually soars alone high in the sky.

So, who would you agree with? Do you think the eagle was the best choice, or was Benjamin Franklin's idea better?



Answer these questions about "Bald Eagle or Turkey?". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is an opinion?

2. Why did Benjamin Franklin think that the bald eagle was not a hard working bird ?

3. Why was the turkey described as brave?

4. What was one reason why William Barton chose the eagle for the great seal's design?

5. Which bird would you choose? Why?

Name _____

First Sight of Liberty

"I remember the first time I ever saw Lady Liberty," grandmother told me. "I was coming to America for freedom. I had been on a ship from Europe for nearly two weeks! Two weeks of waves and seasickness! I wanted to get off of that boat and get my feet onto American soil so badly!" she exclaimed.

"Someone announced that we were getting close to New York. Everyone ran to the rails of the ship to watch for Ellis Island and the lady who stands in the harbor. We could not wait to see her. We wanted the liberty that she offered. We watched in silence for an hour or two. Suddenly, an old man cried out, 'I see her! I see her!' I saw the torch first. Slowly, the rest of her appeared. Tears rolled down my cheeks. I was finally home in America. I knew when I saw her that I was going to be a free person at last."

"That was many years ago and I love her still. To me, her torch still lights the way to freedom. She welcomes the poor and hungry. She offers them liberty even today," grandmother said with a soft sigh and a smile.



Answer these questions about "First Sight of Liberty". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Who is telling this story?

2. How was this person coming to America?

3. Why do you think the people watched in silence?

4. Why did tears roll down her cheeks?

5. Why does this person still love the Statue of Liberty?

Name _____

Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross was born in 1752 in Pennsylvania. As she was growing up, her aunt taught her how to sew. Betsy was very talented and could make almost anything!

When she married her husband, John Ross, they opened a shop that made all sorts of things with fabric. John and Betsy Ross also attended church with George Washington and his family. Perhaps this is how they met. No one is quite sure though.

What is certain is that during the war with England, Betsy suffered many heartbreaks. Her husband was killed when some gunpowder blew up. She married again. This time her husband was taken prisoner by the British. He died in prison. Still Betsy kept her shop open. She was always busy. She worked night and day sewing. She repaired torn uniforms. She sewed tents and blankets to keep soldiers warm. She even made paper tubes to hold musket balls for their guns.



Betsy Ross certainly made flags for ships and soldiers. She may have made the first flag. She may not have made it. Either way, her story is one of bravery and courage in the face of many hard times during America's beginning.

Answer these questions about "Betsy Ross". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How did Betsy learn to sew?

2. What famous American did Betsy know?

3. What heartbreaking things happened to Betsy?

4. What are some things that Betsy did to help the soldiers?

5. Why is Betsy's story important to history?

Name _____

How to Play Dreidel

During Hanukkah, Jewish children like to play a game with a four sided top called a dreidel. On each side of the top is a Hebrew letter. If you want to play you will need a dreidel and at least 10 objects for each player. These objects can be coins, chocolates, nuts, or any other small items.

How to Play

1. Give each player their 10 items.
2. Each round every player puts 1 object in the middle of the circle or "the pot". Each player will also add an object whenever the pot or middle is empty.
3. Take turns spinning the dreidel one time. Follow these directions to know what to do for each symbol:
 - **נ**! This letter is Nun. It means that you get nothing.
 - **ג**! This letter is Gimel. If you roll this letter, you get everything in the pot.
 - **ה**! This letter is Hey. You take half of the pot if you roll this. If the number is odd, you take half plus one more.!
 - **ש**! This letter is Shin. When this is rolled, you must add an object to the pot. !

How to Win

Whenever you run out of objects, you are out of the game. The winner is the last one left with all of the objects!



Answer these questions about "How to Play Dreidel" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. When do Jewish children play dreidel?

2. What will you need besides a dreidel if you want to play?

3. What should you do if you roll the letter Hey and there are 6 items in the pot?

4. What must be done before every round of the game?

5. How do you know who won the game?

Name _____

Jack Frost

Once upon a time in the Kingdom of the Sky, Father Time and Mother Nature had a most unusual baby boy. His skin was white as snow. His eyes were icy blue. Everything that the baby touched began to freeze. They named him Jack Frost.

As Jack grew up, he practiced his magic every day. He learned to turn the lakes to solid ice. He blew on the windows of the castle and the most wonderful frosty pictures appeared. He spent his time hand crafting snowflakes. He never made two that were exactly the same.

Once he had mastered his skills, his parents told him that the time had come to visit the land below. Father Time said, "I sense that the end of the year is near." Mother Nature said, "Yes, Jack, it is time for fall to end and winter to begin. Would you like to help us decorate the land?" Jack exclaimed, "You bet I would!"

From that time on, Jack has frosted lawns and flowers. His breath causes the bitter wind to blow. He pulls down icicles with his fingertips. So, if you wake up one morning and your world looks frozen, you will know that Jack Frost has paid you a visit during the night.



Answer these questions about "Jack Frost" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. In this tale, who are Jack Frost's parents?

2. What was unusual about how Jack looks?

3. How did Jack spend his time every day?

4. How will you know if Jack has visited you?

5. Everything Jack touches freezes. How could this cause problems for Jack?

Name _____

Charlie's First Snow

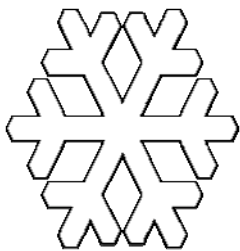
A few years ago when my chocolate lab, Charlie, was just a little puppy, it snowed. We live in Georgia and it hardly ever snows here! Charlie had never seen snow before. We weren't sure what he would think of it.

I toted Charlie outside. He whined a little because the air was so cold. He wanted to go back inside the warm house.

Gently, I placed him down in the white snow that covered the ground. He sat there looking very confused. Then he started picking up his paws and shaking them. He could not understand why his feet were cold and wet.

He took a small step. His paw made a crunch sound as he stepped. He raised his ear and turned his head. His feet had never made that noise before.

He took a few more steps and his tail wagged. Soon, he was romping and running through the snow. There were tiny dog tracks all over the yard. He fell and rolled down the hill. When he got up, we laughed because his brown fur was dusted with white snow. Charlie played for a long time. He cried when we picked him up to go back inside for a warm bath and some lunch. I like to remember Charlie and his first snow.



Answer these questions about "Charlie's First Snow" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why did the author write this story?

2. Who is telling this story?

3. What happened to begin the story?

4. How did the story end?

5. How can you tell that Charlie ending up enjoying the snow?

Name _____

Dear Santa,

I hope that you are doing well. I am sure that you have been very busy! I am glad that you have the elves to help you with the work. Please tell Mrs. Claus hello for me. I'll bet she worries about you when you make your big trip for Christmas. Tell her I will leave some extra cookies and you can bring some back home to share with her.

I wanted to thank you for the presents you gave me last year. I loved them all, but the doll was my favorite. My mommy said that it looks like me when I was a baby! My brother, Sam, loved his skateboard, too! He rides it almost every day. He can do some cool tricks on it now.

This year, I would like some clothes for my doll that you gave me last year. I think she would like to have her own little crib to sleep in. My brother wants a guitar this year. He wants to learn to play music and start a band.

I hope you have a safe trip. Please tell the reindeer that I will leave some carrots out on the lawn for them. They might need a snack! Your cookies and milk will be on the table beside the fireplace. I promise to go to bed early. I don't want you to have to stay out too late.

Love,
Emma



Answer these questions about "Dear Santa" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What was Emma's favorite gift last year?

2. How does Emma prove to Santa that Sam loves his skateboard?

3. Why will Emma go to bed early on Christmas Eve?

4. What does Emma want for Christmas this year?

5. Emma is leaving cookies and milk out for Santa. Who else is Emma leaving food out for?

Name _____

Little Cub's First Winter

"Mama, what's that big word you told me about yesterday?" asked Little Cub.

"Hibernation, dear," answered Mama.

"I'm a little worried about that big word- hibernation," said Little Cub.

"What is worrying you, Little Cub?" Mama asked.

"When will it start? How long will we sleep?" he asked.

Mama answered, "It is starting in just a little while and we will sleep for about seven months."

"What if I can't fall asleep, or what if I wake up early?" asked Little Cub

"You will fall asleep, dear. I will be right beside you the whole time. You won't wake up until spring comes. I promise." she said.

"What if I get hungry or thirsty?" he asked.

"That is why we hibernate, dear. We have been eating and drinking a lot. Our bodies store up what we need. Then, we can sleep right through the winter when food is hard to find," she said.

Little Cub snuggled up with Mama.

"Oh Little Cub, I forgot to tell you one more thing. I love you. Little Cub? Little Cub?" she asked.

"Zzzzzz," Little Cub said.



Answer these questions about "Little Cub's First Winter" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. When does this story take place?

2. What problem is Little Cub having in this story?

3. How does Mama help Little Cub with his problem?

4. Why will Mama and Little Cub sleep through the winter?

5. How does the last line tell the reader that Little Cub's problem has been solved?

Name _____

Our Christmas Tree

Every year, we look forward to putting up our Christmas tree. First, we all get in the van and drive out to T.J.'s Tree Farm. We slowly walk around and look at the different trees. They are in many sizes. We try to find a tall, full one with no gaps or holes. When we agree on the perfect tree, T.J. cuts it down for us. While he gets it shaken and wrapped in netting, we drink free hot cocod.

Next, we drive home and unload the tree. It takes a while to get it to straight in the tree stand. We add lights after that. Every year, dad puts the lights away nice and neat. Every year, when he gets them down from the attic they are tangled up again! It takes a long time to get them unwound. I help dad put the lights around the tree. Sometimes I get dizzy and have to sit down for a minute.

Then, we hang the ornaments. This is my favorite part. All of the ornaments have a story. There is a handprint tree that I made in preschool. I bought a Mickey Mouse one when we went to Disney World last year. Some are pretty and made of glass. Others are cut from colored paper. I love them all.



Last, Dad picks me up and I put the star on top. We all sit on the couch and turn off the lights. Dad turns on some Christmas music and plugs in the tree lights. We all say, "Ooooh! Aaadh!" We think our tree is so pretty lighting up the dark room. We always sit and stare at it for a long time. I love our tree!

Answer these questions about "Our Christmas Tree". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What does the family do first each year?

2. What happens after they put on the lights?

3. Which part of putting up a Christmas tree is the author's favorite?

4. When does the family say, "Ooooh! Aaadh!"?

5. How is this family like yours? How are they different?

Name _____

Reindeer

Reindeer are very interesting animals. They live in the most northern parts of the world. The weather changes there from green meadows to a frozen tundra. When in the wild, they are usually called caribou. Caribou who are tame are called reindeer.

Reindeer names may sound familiar to you. A male is called a bull. A female is a cow. A baby is a calf. Does that sound like other animals you know?

Reindeer are useful to people. They provide meat, hides, milk, and some people even use them as a form of transportation. Reindeer often **migrate** or travel long distances in a big herd. They can move very quickly. A one day old calf can outrun a person!

Reindeer love to eat plants! They enjoy eating mosses, herbs, ferns, grasses, and mushrooms. Most reindeer eat between 9 and 18 pounds of plants each day. During the winter, they use their noses to find food hidden under the snow. They have a terrific sense of smell!

Reindeer stay warm by storing up fat. They also have thick fur all over. Even their hooves are hairy! This keeps them from slipping as they walk through mud, snow, and ice.



Answer these questions about "Reindeer" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Which animal did you think of when you read about reindeer names?

2. What does the word **migrate** mean?

3. Why did the author write this passage?

4. How do reindeer find food during the winter?

5. Which fact was the most interesting to you?

Name _____

Feliz Navidad

If you lived in Mexico, you would wish someone Feliz Navidad instead of saying Merry Christmas. You would also have a great time celebrating Las Posadas. Las Posadas is a nine day celebration. It begins on December 16th and ends on Christmas Eve, December 24th. During this time, many services and activities happen.

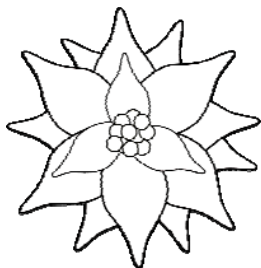
Lots of people have parties or family get togethers. They often decorate with a special Christmas flower that comes from Mexico. In America, we call it a poinsettia. We use lots of red ones when we decorate for Christmas here. In Mexico, they call it noche buenas. That means the flower of "good night".

At the party, guests usually eat a big meal with tamales and other hot dishes. They also make a hot drink made from fruits, brown sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla.

After they eat, the children hit a star shaped pinata with sticks. When it busts open, small gifts and candy fall to the floor.

The guests also gather and sing carols.

Before leaving the party, the hosting family gives each guest a small gift. It is usually a small box or bag filled with cookies, fruit, and candy.



Answer these questions about "Feliz Navidad" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Where would you probably be if someone wished you Feliz Navidad?

2. How long does the celebration of Las Posadas last?

3. What Christmas flower comes from Mexico?

4. What happens after they eat their big meal?

5. Would you want to go to a Las Posadas party? Why or why not?

Christmas Down Under

Does the Christmas season make you think of surfboards and barbeque grills? It would if you lived in Australia. You see, Australia can be found on the bottom half of the Earth. Their seasons are different from ours because of how the Earth tilts. December is cold and gray here in America, but in Australia December comes during the summer. In fact, most kids are out of school for summer vacation and the Christmas holidays at the same time!

Many Australians like to celebrate Christmas with lots of outdoor activities. They might take a camping trip or go to the beach on Christmas Eve. If you want to stay inside and watch television, you could see the ocean yacht races or maybe a game of cricket, which is similar to baseball here in America. There is also a huge outdoor concert that happens in Australia for Christmas.

You would also eat different foods. Instead of a big hot meal with ham or turkey, you might eat seafood, salads, cold sandwiches, or even grill out some food. For dessert, you would probably have ice cream pudding. As you can see, Christmas in Australia would very different in some ways.



Name _____

Answer these questions about "Christmas Down Under" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why does Christmas happen during the summer in Australia?

2. What are two reasons kids are out of school in December in Australia?

3. Which outdoor Christmas activity sounds like the most fun to you?

4. How would your Christmas dinner be different if you lived in Australia?

5. Would you like to celebrate Christmas in Australia? Why or why not?
