

The Fourth of July

Reading Passage & Comprehension Questions

NONFICTION
FREEBIE

Two differentiated versions of a nonfiction reading passage and comprehension questions about the Fourth of July. The pages are titled "The Fourth of July" and include a "Name:" field.

Left Version:

- Understanding Key Ideas and Details:** What is this article mostly about?
- Key Vocabulary:** What is the meaning of *patriotic*? What clues support your inference?
- Multiple Choice:** Which detail explains why Independence Day is celebrated on July 4th?
a. Independence Day is an American holiday celebrated each year on July 4th.
b. The city rang bells and launched fireworks.
c. Almost 100 years later, in 1870, the government named the Fourth of July a national holiday.
d. On this day, America's founders said the nation was its own country and would no longer follow the rules of Great Britain's king anymore.
- Apply It!** Independence Day Timeline
In 1776, Then, In 1870, Today,
- Did you know?** Almost 150 million hot dogs are eaten on July 4th.

Right Version:

- Understanding Key Ideas and Details:** What is this article mostly about?
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Includes 2 differentiated versions

This freebie is part of a complete Summer Nonfiction unit in both **PRINTABLE** and **DIGITAL**!

10 NONFICTION Reading Passages & Comprehension Questions

Print & Digital



Summertime

2 differentiated versions each

Sizzling Summer
Summer is not just the hottest season. It is known for beach days, refreshing watermelon, backyard BBQs, and kids on summer break.
The official first day of summer is on or near June 20 each year, the day of the Summer Solstice. The Summer Solstice is the day when the sun reaches its northernmost point in the sky. In summer, we have the longest days of the year. Summer brings the sun to the northern hemisphere (north of the Equator). In the southern hemisphere, it is winter or autumn, like Australia.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The summer solstice.
b. The longest days of the year.
c. The summer season.
d. The summer break.

Wonderful Watermelons
What delicious summer fruit has more vitamins and minerals than an apple? The watermelon does! juicy, sweet, and thirst-quenching, the watermelon is a healthy summer snack.
The first watermelon was picked 5,000 years ago in Southern Africa.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The health benefits of watermelon.
b. The history of watermelon.
c. The different types of watermelon.
d. The different uses of watermelon.

A Day at the Beach
A beach is a landform found along the shores of lakes, rivers, oceans, or seas. Waves and currents in the water are always changing its shape. Waves either bring or remove sand from beaches.
Feel the sand between your toes? Sand is made of millions of microscopic pieces of gravel, pebbles, rock, or even coral.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The definition of a beach.
b. The different types of beaches.
c. The different uses of beaches.
d. The different locations of beaches.

The Long Days of Summer
It's summer. The days are hot. The days are long. In fact, summer is the season with the longest days of the year because it is tilted closest to the sun. More sunlight means kids get to be outside later before going home for dinner!
To understand why summer days are the longest, you must know some things about our Earth and the sun. First, Earth is cut in half by an imaginary line called the Equator. The top half is called the northern hemisphere, and the bottom half is called the southern hemisphere.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The longest days of the year.
b. The summer season.
c. The summer break.
d. The summer solstice.

What's a Hurricane?
Hurricanes are large rotating storms with heavy rain and strong winds that develop during the summer months.
How does a hurricane form?
A hurricane forms over warm water in the tropical regions of the ocean. Cool air and warm water rise, creating strong thunderstorms. When these storm clouds begin to spin and strengthen, a hurricane is formed. Before winds reach 74 mph, the weather system is called a tropical storm. Once winds reach 74 mph, it is called a hurricane.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The definition of a hurricane.
b. The different types of hurricanes.
c. The different uses of hurricanes.
d. The different locations of hurricanes.

Camping 101
Thinking about spending the summer in the great outdoors? Camping will bring you close to nature and is fun for the whole family. Whether you like hiking or relaxing by a lake, camping can be just right for anyone who wants to unwind and enjoy time outside.
Before leaving on a camping trip, it is important to prepare. The most common camping items are a tent, sleeping bags, a lantern or flashlight, food and water, a camp stove, clothes, and bug spray. These items are the basics for a successful camping trip.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The definition of camping.
b. The different types of camping.
c. The different uses of camping.
d. The different locations of camping.

Ice Cream or Gelato?
I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Ice cream is one of the most loved summertime treats around the world, but have you ever tried gelato?
Gelato is the Italian word for ice cream. It is made with milk, cream, and sugar. Gelato is different from ice cream in several ways. First, gelato is made with less cream and more fruit. Second, gelato is served at a lower temperature than ice cream. Third, gelato is made in a different way than ice cream. Gelato is made by slowly churning the mixture, which allows the flavors to develop more fully. Gelato is also served in smaller portions than ice cream.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The definition of gelato.
b. The different types of gelato.
c. The different uses of gelato.
d. The different locations of gelato.

Take a Summer Road Trip
It's time for a summer road trip. Start here for your beginner's guide to planning the best summer adventure!
The United States has 4,267 miles of road, ready to be explored this summer. Road trips are the perfect way to see the country. First, you can see the sights and scenery. Second, you can enjoy the food and drink. Third, you can relax and unwind. Fourth, you can have fun and make memories. Road trips are a great way to spend the summer.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The definition of a road trip.
b. The different types of road trips.
c. The different uses of road trips.
d. The different locations of road trips.

The Truth About Sunburn
During the summer season, people spend a lot of time outdoors in the sun. Sunny days are perfect for playing baseball, going to the beach, or having a picnic. For anyone who spends time outside, it is important to understand the harmful effects of the sun.
Sunburn can happen after just 15 minutes of sun exposure. Sunburn is caused by the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays. UV rays are invisible to the eye, but they can damage the skin. Sunburn is a sign that the skin is being damaged. Sunburn can cause pain, redness, and swelling. Sunburn can also lead to skin cancer.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The definition of sunburn.
b. The different types of sunburn.
c. The different uses of sunburn.
d. The different locations of sunburn.

The Fourth of July
Independence Day is an American holiday celebrated each year on July 4th. This special day began almost 250 years ago and is known today for fireworks, barbecues, and parades.
History of July 4th
In the beginning, America was ruled by Great Britain. On July 4th, 1776, America's founders came together to approve the Declaration of Independence. This important document was made because Americans wanted to be free from Great Britain. On this day, America's leaders said the nation was its own country and would not follow the rules of the king anymore.
Four days later (July 8, 1776) the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in public. One year after the declaration was approved, the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The city rang bells and launched fireworks. Almost 100 years later, in 1870, the government named the Fourth of July a national holiday.
Fourth of July is celebrated across the United States today as a day of American pride. Families and friends get together for barbecues and picnics. Patriotic parades and events can be found across all 50 states. American flags are hung and people proudly wear red, white, and blue. Bands play music and fireworks displays light up the night sky.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details
What is this article mostly about?
a. The definition of Independence Day.
b. The different types of Independence Day.
c. The different uses of Independence Day.
d. The different locations of Independence Day.

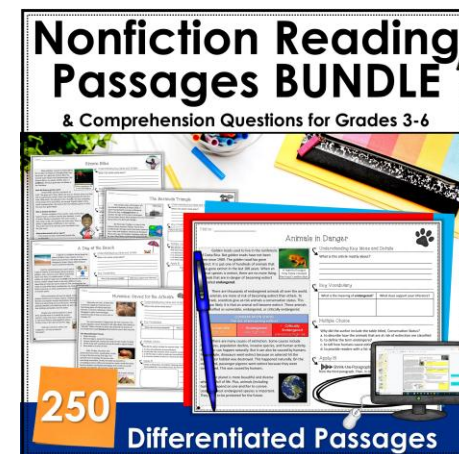
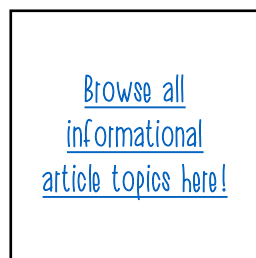
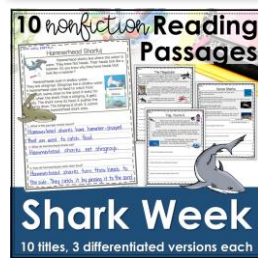
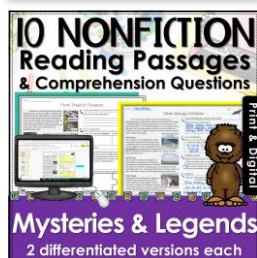
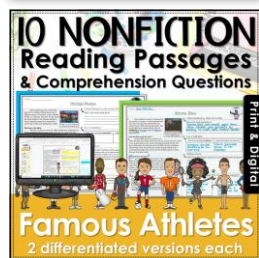
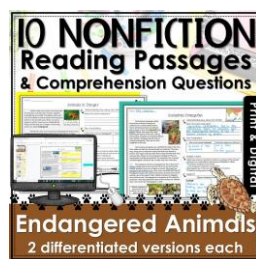
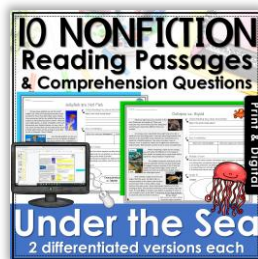
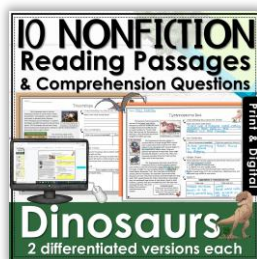
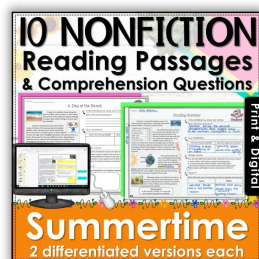
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Directions and Tips for Use

This freebie is part of a complete unit! Check out the full description below!

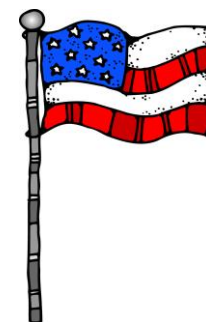
This product is designed for students to practice their informational reading skills with high interest topics of the theme, "Summer". These passages can be used in a variety of ways including but not limited to: guided reading groups, skills based groups, morning work/bell work, homework, independent practice, and more! You may also choose to model close reading strategies for students and allow them to practice marking up the text and answering the comprehension questions.

Each passage is written at two different grade level ranges (3rd/4th and 5th/6th) and includes photographs and text features. Passages range from approximately 200 words to 250 words. The levels vary by vocabulary, sentence structure, and sentence length. You will notice each passage is coded with two small circles in the bottom left corner as a reference to the two levels. Every title is accompanied by four rigorous text dependent questions, printed side-by-side for saving paper and ink. Students will learn the format of these activities because the overall structure remains the same, allowing them to focus on the challenge of reading and comprehending informational texts.

There are four response types for each passage.

1. Students determine the main idea.
2. Students infer the meaning of a key vocabulary word and support their inference with text evidence.
3. Students answer a multiple choice question that requires them to refer to the text.
4. Students will identify key details and complete a graphic organizer, allowing them to apply what they have read.

All questions are Common Core Aligned and designed to assess students' comprehension after reading the passage. A Scope and Sequence Guide is included and can be used to guide your instructional decisions and printing. An Answer Key is also included. The correct answers apply to both differentiated passages for easy scoring and grading.



↓ Check out the full 10 passage download here:

[Differentiated Nonfiction Passages and Questions -- Summer Theme](#)

●○ 3rd/4th grade

●● 5th/6th grade

Skills Outline and Answer Key

2	The Long Days of Summer	Main idea, inferring vocabulary, cause and effect, identify key details	10	11
3	The Fourth of July	Main idea, inferring vocabulary, explanation of details, sequence of events	12	13
4	Ice Cream or Gelato?	Main idea, inferring vocabulary, text structure, compare and contrast	14	15
5	Wonderful Watermelons	Main idea, inferring vocabulary, using text features, identify key details	16	17

The Fourth of July

1. Independence Day is a national holiday Americans celebrate to remember when we declared our country independent from Great Britain.
2. showing and expressing support for one's country
3. D
4. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved. Then, Americans celebrated their freedom. In 1870, July 4th was declared a national holiday. Today, families celebrate with BBQs, fireworks, and parades.

Name: _____

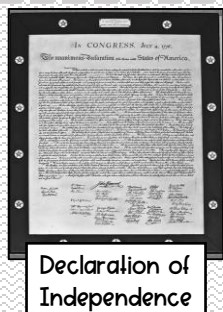


The Fourth of July

Independence Day is an American holiday celebrated each year on July 4th. This special day began almost 250 years ago and is known today for fireworks, barbeques, and parades.

History of July 4th

In the beginning, America was ruled by Great Britain. On July 4th, 1776, America's founders came together to approve the Declaration of Independence. This important document was made because Americans wanted to be free from Great Britain. On this day, America's leaders said the nation was its own country and would not follow the rules of Great Britain's king anymore.



Declaration of Independence



Four days later (July 8, 1776) the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in public. One year after the declaration was approved, the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The city rang bells and launched fireworks. Almost 100 years later, in 1870, the government named the Fourth of July a national holiday.

July 4th Today

Fourth of July is celebrated across the United States today as a day of American pride. Families and friends get together for barbeques and picnics. **Patriotic** parades and events can be found across all 50 states. American flags are hung and people proudly wear red, white, and blue. Bands play music and firework displays light up the night sky.



Did you know?
Almost 150 million hot dogs are eaten on July 4th.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details

What is this article mostly about?

Key Vocabulary

What is the meaning of patriotic ?	What clues support your inference?

Multiple Choice

Which detail explains why Independence Day is celebrated on July 4th?

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Apply It!

Independence Day Timeline

In 1776,	Then,	In 1870,	Today,

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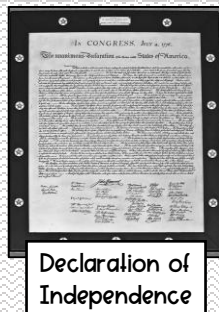


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Independence Day is an American holiday celebrated each year on July 4th. Best known today for fireworks, barbeques, and parades, this special day actually started almost 250 years ago.

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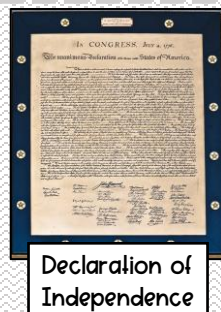


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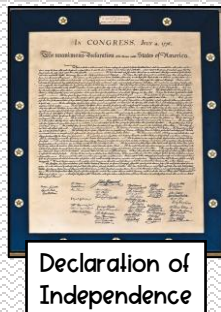


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