

Christmas

READING COMPREHENSION BUNDLE

GRADES 6-7

DIFFERENTIATED READING
PASSAGES, CONTEXT CLUES
COLORING ACTIVITY AND
A FUN TEXT MESSAGE
ACTIVITY

Name: _____

Swimming Pools

Few things are more alluring than a swimming pool when thinking of a vacation. Swimming pools are relaxing, fun and a well-deserved reward. Swimming pools appeal to people of all ages, from children and teenagers. Despite their popularity, swimming pools have a long history. Many people believe that one of the most popular places to be in the world is a swimming pool.

Swimming pools have been around for nearly 5,000 years. Archaeological evidence shows that swimming pools were popular in ancient Egypt. These pools were popular for both the rich and the poor. In ancient Egypt, swimming pools were used for both recreation and as a way to relax. In England, swimming pools were popular destinations for the wealthy. During the 19th century, swimming pools became a popular sport at the first modern Olympic Games. Various swimming pools have been built in the world, particularly in the United States. After World War II, swimming pools became a popular feature in the homes of the middle class. Today, swimming pools are popular in the United States and many other countries. Swimming pools have been around for a long time and will continue to be a popular feature for many years to come.

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

descriptions _____

disrespect _____

paused _____

believed _____

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details to support your answer.

2. Who was Saint Nicholas? What connection is there between Saint Nicholas and the modern myth of Santa Claus?

3. The author states that there have been swimming pools in many cultures in the past. What evidence from the text supports this statement?

4. What role did the poem by Clement Moore play in the modern story of Santa Claus?

5. The author states that Santa Claus is a popular figure in many cultures. What text supports that statement?

Name: _____

Text Message Analysis

Brianna

I'm still so excited I never told anyone that I wanted that. I don't know how you knew!

Mom

I saw you looking at it when we were in the mall. I'm just so happy that you had it as much as you do!

Brianna

You have no idea. It is so beautiful. I can't get over how thoughtful it was of you to pick that one for me.

Mom

This makes me so happy to see you so happy. It's even better than getting a gift myself. Maybe that will happen in the future.

Brianna

Thanks so much for looking out for me and the decorations. Everything looks great.

Mom

I still feel so bad about that ornament. You've had that since you were young.

Brianna

I told you it's okay. It was given to me and I should have done a better job of picking it up for you. Please stop worrying.

Mom

I feel a lot better knowing that you're happy. I think of a way to make this up to you. I promise!

1

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REINDEER DIFFERENTIATED READING PASSAGE & ACTIVITIES

Name: _____

Reindeer

When you think of Christmas, the reindeer is probably the first animal to come to your mind. Reindeer are mentioned in songs, featured on cards and used as decorations. But who in nature is the reindeer in person are still able to easily recognize the reindeer. But how did reindeer come to be associated with Christmas?

Reindeer are a deer species found primarily in the Arctic, although they may be found further south. In North America, they are often called caribou. They live in cold climates and thrive in rough, rugged and cold terrain. Their affinity for cold weather makes them the perfect animal to represent winter, but they didn't truly become associated with Christmas or Santa Claus and his flying sleigh until after 1823.

In 1823, Clement Clarke Moore wrote a poem describing Santa riding in a flying sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer. Reindeer became linked to the holiday and to Santa Claus with the success of Moore's poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." The popularity of the poem caused reindeer to become a major part of the holiday season. That connection has endured for over a century.

The reindeer didn't get named until 1939, when Rudolph was listed as the leader of Santa's herd. With his distinctive red nose, Rudolph was the star of a booklet written by Robert May. The book was published by the Montgomery Ward store and was immediately popular. As an outcast who became the hero, Rudolph's story also taught children the importance of being yourself.

In 1949, Rudolph's story became the basis for the popular song by Gene Autry. The song is still sung today. In 1964, Rudolph became the star of his own movie. It was a stop-motion animated film featuring a snowman who befriends Rudolph. Other characters in the movie include Curly, Donner, and Blitzen who are the reindeer. Rudolph's story was the basis for the movie and song. Today, they are still the stars of the holiday season, pulling Santa's sleigh.

Reindeer have continued to be associated with Christmas, even today. Many Christmas movies have reindeer in them, and reindeer adorn Christmas decorations. They are not only important for their association with Christmas. Reindeer are also highly prized and depended upon by the Sami people of the Arctic Circle. Although made most famous for their role in Santa's magical nighttime ride, reindeer are a logical choice to represent Christmas because of their love of cold weather and their location near the North Pole.

2

Name: _____

Reindeer

Reindeer are probably the first animal to come to mind when you think of Christmas. Reindeer are mentioned in songs and pictured on cards and decorations. But how did reindeer come to be associated with Christmas?

Reindeer live primarily in the Arctic in North America, they are often called caribou. They live in cold climates and thrive in rough and cold terrain. Their affinity for cold weather makes them the perfect animal to represent winter. They didn't become associated with Christmas until after 1823.

In 1823, Clement Clarke Moore wrote a poem about Santa in a flying sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer. Reindeer became linked to the holiday and to Santa Claus because of Moore's poem. The popularity of the poem caused reindeer to become a major part of the holiday season. That connection has endured for over a century.

The reindeer didn't get named until 1939. Rudolph was listed as the leader of Santa's herd. With his distinctive red nose, Rudolph was the star of a booklet written by Robert May. The book was printed by the Montgomery Ward store and was very popular. Rudolph's story also taught children the importance of being yourself.

In 1949, Rudolph's story became the basis for the popular song by Gene Autry. The song is still sung today. In 1964, Rudolph became the star of his own movie. It was a stop-motion film featuring a snowman who befriends Rudolph. Other characters in the movie include Curly, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, and Donner. Rudolph's story was the basis for the movie and song. Today, they are still the stars of the holiday season, pulling Santa's sleigh.

Reindeer are still associated with Christmas. Many Christmas movies feature reindeer and they adorn Christmas decorations. They are not only important for their association with Christmas. Reindeer are highly prized by the Sami people of the Arctic Circle. Reindeer were made famous for their role in Santa's magical nighttime ride. They are also a logical choice to represent Christmas because they love cold weather and live near the North Pole.

3

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Write the answer, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

- primarily
a. mainly b. favorably c. away
context clues: _____
- terrain
a. home b. supply c. environment
context clues: _____
- affinity
a. fondness b. dislike c. passion
context clues: _____
- endured
a. lasted b. reduced c. believed
context clues: _____
- distinctive
a. unknown b. common c. unique
context clues: _____
- basis
a. ending b. source c. skill
context clues: _____
- adorn
a. decorate b. remove c. light
context clues: _____

4

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Determine what each word means based on the way it is used in the passage, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you.

- primarily:
context clues: _____
- terrain:
context clues: _____
- affinity:
context clues: _____
- endured:
context clues: _____
- distinctive:
context clues: _____
- basis:
context clues: _____
- adorn:
context clues: _____

5

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

- What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details to support your answer.

- The author states that reindeer are a logical choice as an animal that represents winter. What evidence in the text supports this statement?

- What role did the poem by Clement Clarke Moore play in the connection between reindeer and Christmas?

- How did music play a role in the connection between reindeer and Christmas?

- What evidence does the author give to show that reindeer are still associated with Christmas?

6

Name: _____

Writing Assignment

The story of Rudolph has delighted children for decades, but it also includes a valuable lesson. In the story, children learn that it is important to be yourself. Write a paragraph about a time when you learned that it was important to be yourself. In your writing, be sure to include the following:

- Explain why it was important for you to be yourself.
- Explain when you learned this lesson.
- Explain how that lesson helped you in the future.
- Make sure you proofread your writing to check for spelling and grammar issues.

7



SANTA CLAUS DIFFERENTIATED READING PASSAGE & ACTIVITIES

Name: _____

Santa Claus

Who is the jolly old man in a red suit, with reindeer pulling his sleigh, delivering toys to children all over the world on Christmas Eve? It must be Santa Claus. Santa Claus also goes by Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle or Saint Nick. Although not real, the myth of Santa may have been based on a real person. His myth has grown and evolved throughout history, resulting in different depictions of this gift-giving figure.

Giving gifts to children has a long history. In Europe, the ancient holiday of Saturnalia was generally celebrated around the time of the winter. The holiday was a festival to venerate the Roman god Saturn. Celebration of Saturnalia often included many days of festivities, a banquet and exchanging gifts.

Saint Nicholas was an actual person. He was a Greek Christian bishop in Turkey in the fourth century who was famous for giving gifts to the poor. He was a saint and his name day was celebrated by giving children gifts in the Middle Ages. That tradition persisted even after he was no longer referred to as a saint, but rather as Santa Claus.

While different from Santa Claus, there have been myths about figures that brought gifts to children in many cultures in Europe. In England, the idea of Father Christmas has a long history, with origins that date back to the 1500s. He was depicted as a jolly and large older man who embodied the spirit of Christmas. He brought peace, joy, food and general good cheer. A German tradition centered on the Norwegian god Odin. He was depicted as having a long white beard and wore a cloak. People also believed that Odin brought gifts on his travels.

The modern idea of Santa with his red suit and large stomach was first created in the early nineteenth century. Santa was described as a "jolly old elf" by Clement Clarke Moore in *A Visit from St. Nicholas*. The poem begins with the famous line, "'Twas the night before Christmas." This poem made popular the idea that Santa Claus trekked all around the world to deliver presents. Around the same time, illustrations of a large, bearded man helped create a common ideal of what the jolly old man like for this day. Santa is still portrayed in a very similar way.

While many European cultures had a figure that delivered gifts or represented the winter holidays, the modern incarnation of Santa as a jolly, portly man dressed in a red suit is most popular in the United States. Images of Santa appear on cards, clothing and decorations. Santa is a cultural icon and has inspired Christmas Eve rituals like leaving out milk and cookies and hanging stockings, as well as holiday events like photos with Santa.

2

Name: _____

Santa Claus

Who is the jolly old man in a red suit delivering toys to children all over the world on Christmas Eve? It must be Santa Claus. Santa Claus also goes by Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle or Saint Nick. Although not real, Santa may have been based on a real person. The myth about Santa has grown and changed over time. There are different depictions of this gift-giving figure.

Giving gifts during the winter has a long history. The ancient holiday of Saturnalia was celebrated at the end of December. The holiday was a festival to venerate the Roman god Saturn. Celebration of Saturnalia often included a banquet and exchanging gifts.

Saint Nicholas was an actual person. He was a Greek Christian bishop in Turkey who lived in the 300s and was famous for giving gifts to the poor. He was also a saint. His name day was celebrated by giving children gifts in the Middle Ages. That tradition persisted even after he was no longer referred to as a saint, but rather as Santa Claus.

There have been stories about mythical people that brought gifts to children in many cultures in Europe. In England, the idea of Father Christmas has a long history. He was described as a jolly and large older man who embodied the spirit of Christmas. The Norwegian god Odin was the focus of a German tradition. He had a long white beard, wore a cloak and brought gifts on his travels.

The modern idea of Santa with his red suit and large stomach was first created in the early nineteenth century. Santa was described as a "jolly old elf" by Clement Clarke Moore in *A Visit from St. Nicholas*. The poem begins with the famous line, "'Twas the night before Christmas." This poem made popular the idea that Santa Claus trekked all around the world to deliver presents. Around the same time, illustrations of a large, bearded man helped create a common idea of what Santa looked like.

The modern incarnation of Santa as a jolly, portly man dressed in a red suit is most popular in the United States. Images of Santa appear on cards, clothing and decorations. Santa is a cultural icon and has inspired Christmas Eve rituals like leaving out milk and cookies and hanging stockings, as well as holiday events like photos with Santa.

3

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

- depictions
a. people b. pictures c. descriptions
context clues: _____
- venerate
a. visualize b. honor c. disrespect
context clues: _____
- persisted
a. stopped b. continued c. paused
context clues: _____
- embodied
a. represented b. destroyed c. believed
context clues: _____
- trekked
a. hid b. traveled c. sailed
context clues: _____
- incarnation
a. form b. showing c. material
context clues: _____
- portly
a. round b. small c. tall
context clues: _____

4

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Determine what each word means based on the way it is used in the passage, then write down the context clues from the text that helped you.

- depictions
context clues: _____
- venerate
context clues: _____
- persisted
context clues: _____
- embodied
context clues: _____
- trekked
context clues: _____
- incarnation
context clues: _____
- portly
context clues: _____

5

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

- What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details to support your answer.

- Who was Saint Nicholas and what connection does he have to Saint Nicholas and the modern myth of Santa Claus?

- The author states that there have been different mythical figures that gave gifts in many cultures in Europe. What is one example presented in the text?

- What role did the poem by Clement Clarke Moore play in creating the modern story of Santa Claus?

- The author states that Santa Claus is a cultural icon. What evidence in the text supports that statement?

6

Name: _____

Writing Assignment

Giving gifts is an important tradition to celebrate holidays in many cultures. Children often enjoy receiving expensive toys, but gifts that have a lot of sentimental value are very meaningful. Sentimental means emotional. Think of a time when you received a gift that may not have been very expensive, but was very meaningful. Write a paragraph that explains what the gift was and why it was so important. In your writing, be sure to include the following:

- Explain who you received the gift from.
- Describe the gift.
- Explain why it was so important to you.
- Make sure you proofread your writing to check for spelling and grammar issues.

7



CHRISTMAS

COLOR BY NUMBER

Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

9	2	2	2	5	5	2	2	2	3
9	1	5	5	2	2	5	5	1	3
9	1	1	2						
9	8	8	10	10	10	10	10		
9	8	10	10	10	10	10	10		
9	8	10	4	1	7	6			
9	7	6	4	1	7	6			
9	6	4	6	7	1	4			
9	4	6	4	1	7	6			

2

Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

Read the sentences below and use context clues to determine the meaning of each underlined word. Then fill in the spaces that match the question number with the color that corresponds with your answer.

- Celeste soured the shelves looking for the spices her mom needed for the pie.
read - red searched - yellow emptied - white
- Instead of choosing one song, the chorus decided to sing a medley of popular songs.
sing - white separate - red dropping paper - yellow
- He reminded me about his favorite holiday memories.
remind - red remind - yellow remind - green
- He bestowed gifts more than he liked receiving them.
bestow - red avoid - yellow bestow - white
- He hosted a holiday shindig every year and always invited the neighbors.
shindig - green request - white shindig - red
- He made sure everyone had copious amounts of food at his holiday party.
copious - white copious - red copious - green
- He was reluctant to go home for the holidays that he packed his valise a month before.
reluctant - white reluctant - red reluctant - green
- He feared the cold weather and dreaded the long drive home.
feared - green dreaded - yellow feared - red
- He packed his lunchbox with sandwiches and fruit.
lunchbox - yellow suitcase - green lunchbox - red
- He amassed enough money to buy her mother a new dress.
amassed - yellow claiming - red amassed - green
- He collected old records and claimed them as his own.
collecting - yellow claiming - red collected - green

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Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

9	2	2	2	5	5	2	2	2	3
9	1	5	5	2	2	5	5	1	3
9	1	1	2						
9	8	8	10	10	10	10	10		
9	8	10	10	10	10	10	10		
9	8	10	4	1	7	6			
9	7	6	4	1	7	6			
9	6	4	6	7	1	4			
9	4	6	4	1	7	6			

5

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GRADES 5-7

CHRISTMAS

COLOR BY NUMBER

Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

1	1	1	1	2	2	5	5	5
1	1	1	2	7	2	2	7	2
1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	2	4	4	2	2	5
1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
6	3	6	9	6	7	7	9	6
8	8	10	6	9	9	9	9	9
8	8	9	6	9	6	9	9	9
8	8	9	6	9	6	9	9	9
8	9	3	9	10	8	6	6	8

6

Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

Read the sentences below and use context clues to determine the meaning of each underlined word. Then fill in the spaces that match the question number with the color that corresponds with your answer.

1. Felix looked forward to perusing the sale ads to find items he might ask for as gifts.

showing - red ignoring - brown examining - green

usually didn't believe him and that the white magazines displayed on the table were delicious.

collection - white burden - brown

role looked odious, so I skipped over it.

delicious - brown plain - white

ing festive games with her family members.

slow - white difficult - brown

regated around the television after dinner to watch their movie.

gathered - brown avoided - green

ant to go partying alone, so she applied her friends to go with her.

raised green peas proved in her family embellished their tree with new decorations every year.

brown decorated - green removed - red

waited for her family to return home so they could open

patiently - green eagerly - brown

an emotive message in the card he sent to his grandmother and her.

angry - brown boring - white

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Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

1	1	1	1	2	2	5	5	5
1	1	1	2	7	2	2	7	2
1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	2	4	4	2	2	5
1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
6	3	6	9	6	7	7	9	6
8	8	10	6	9	9	9	9	9
8	8	9	6	9	6	9	9	9
8	8	9	6	9	6	9	9	9
8	9	3	9	10	8	6	6	8

9

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GRADES 5-7

CHRISTMAS

COLOR BY NUMBER

Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
6	6	6	6	2	2	6	6	6	6
6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
8	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	9	9
8	10	3	3	7	7	3	3	10	10
8	10	3	3	4	4	3	3	10	10
8	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	9	9
8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
1	1	1	1	7	7	7	7	7	7

10

Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

Read the sentences below and use context clues to determine the meaning of each underlined word. Then fill in the spaces that match the question number with the color that corresponds with your answer.

1. Christina knew it was improbable but really hoped that her parents would give her a dog as a present.

likely - yellow unlikely - red irregular - white

process - orange insisted - red the butt - for

white - white lesson - red

an annual tradition - buying new - red yearly - white

monthly - red yearly - white

g. Champion, lingered at the table hoping that someone

waited - green slept - red

was shocked at the exorbitantly high grocery bill for all the for the holiday dinner.

excessively - green happily - yellow

the bright sweater because it looked gaudy.

classy - white inexpensive - yellow

made the quest to part of other - yellow to people in red.

place - green late - red

ward to helping his mom make a delicious chocolate cake favorite.

tasteless - white delicious - red

along with his favorite carol whenever it came on the radio.

stated - red yelled - yellow

ed far away from the malodorous deviled eggs.

appealing - white smelly - green

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Name: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
8	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	9	9
8	10	3	3	7	7	3	3	10	10
8	10	3	3	4	4	3	3	10	10
8	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	9	9
8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
1	1	1	1	7	7	7	7	7	7

13

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GRADES 5-7