

10 Quick Reading Passages

Topics include:

National Cookie Day

Pearl Harbor

Snow Globes

The Menorah

Sleighs

Christmas Lights

Eggnog

Winter Solstice

Ugly Sweaters

Boxing Day

10 Quick Reading Passages

Each passage is around 150 words and includes two multiple choice questions. One question will focus on an informational text standard for the passage and the other will require students to use context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word.

10

One of the creepiest animals on Earth is also one of the most helpful. Bats, which have a horrible reputation as blood-sucking monsters that carry disease, might save more lives than any other animal. The only thing that keeps them from being even more useful for their use of echolocation is "seeing in the dark." But what exactly are they seeing with this amazing extra sense? Bugs! Usually, several species of bats pursue mosquitoes. Simply by feeling the echo that bounces off a tiny mosquito, bats can hunt an insect that is about the size of your pinkie fingernail. Bats that eat these annoying flying pests need a lot of them. Some species of bats eat around 8,000 mosquitoes every day! Since mosquitoes can carry a deadly disease called malaria that kills about one million people every year, bats really can be considered life savers.

1. What is the effect of the first two sentences of the passage?
 - a. The first two sentences explain that even though they are scary, bats can be quite helpful.
 - b. The first two sentences explain that the passage will focus on bats.
 - c. The first two sentences help the reader understand the author's concerns about bats.
 - d. The first two sentences help the reader understand the danger that bats face.
2. What is the meaning of pursue as it is used in the passage?
 - a. avoid
 - b. practice
 - c. hunt
 - d. follow

Includes both print & digital options!

December Reading Passages

Name: _____

1

Ready to start the winter holidays in a crunchy way, December 4th is National Cookie Day, the annual celebration of this historic sweet. No one knows the origin of this holiday, which dates back to the nineteenth century. The word "cookie," which was then spelled "Pee-wee," but it was when the British explorers discovered that sailors were one of many things they transported to Europe, cookies were later brought to America with the colonists. Today, there are thousands of different recipes for cookies. Entire cookbooks have been written for these treats. There are even cookie-making apps and videos. Special holiday cookies are often baked and sold throughout December. Homemade cookies also make great gifts!

1. What is the central idea of the passage?

- a. Cookies are a popular part of holiday parties.
- b. National Cookie Day is celebrated in December of every year.
- c. Cookies were brought to Europe after Spain was conquered.
- d. Cookies make really great gifts for friends and family.

2. What is the meaning of the word "transported" as it is used in the passage?

- a. brought
- b. sold
- c. offered
- d. returned

2

On December 7th, 1941, people around the United States tuned in to their radios to hear the dire news: a naval base had been attacked. The base at Pearl Harbor, then a territory of the U.S., suffered an early morning surprise attack by Japanese military. More than 300 planes flew over the island and bombed the base. Heavy shooting as the planes flew in. Before it was over, nearly 200 U.S. ships had been destroyed. More than 2,000 Americans had been killed and another 1,100 were injured. The United States declared war on Japan the next day, and all of America's military, devoted to the United States as a result. The attack on Pearl Harbor marked the United States' involvement in World War II.

1. What inference can be made about the passage?

- a. Japan did not realize that the United States was declared war on Japan.
- b. The United States was not surprised by the news of the attack.
- c. The United States was suspicious of a coming attack from Japan.
- d. The United States was unaware that Japan was going to attack.

2. What is the meaning of the word "devoted" as it is used in the passage?

- a. extreme
- b. casual
- c. committed
- d. surprised

December Reading Passages

Copy of The Menorah

One of the most well-known symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah. Menorahs have different numbers of candles. The nine-armed candleholder that is a part of the celebration of Hanukkah is called a hanukkiyah. There are eight places to hold eight candles, one for each night of Hanukkah. The ninth candle holder, which is higher or out of line from the others, holds the shamash, the "helper" candle. It is lit with the other candles each night. Many Jewish families have a special menorah or hanukkiyah. Some have pictures of works of art. Others are more modern looking. Some cities put up public menorahs for the annual Hanukkah festival. Two different menorahs are over thirty feet tall and require a crane to lift someone to light them each night.

What is your name?

Your answer _____

Which quote from the passage best summarizes the central idea?

1 point

- ☐ "One of the most well-known symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah."
- ☐ "The ninth candle holder, which is higher or out of line from the others, holds the shamash."
- ☐ "There are eight places to hold eight candles, one for each night of Hanukkah."
- ☐ "Some of them are picturesque works of art."