

# Summer Vacation

## READING PASSAGE & ACTIVITIES

The image displays a collection of educational worksheets. The central focus is a reading passage titled "Summer Vacation" with a "Name:" field. The passage discusses the history and benefits of summer vacation, mentioning that many students look forward to it for fireworks, swimming, and hot days. It notes that the length of summer vacation varies by country and is often a product of a history of farming. A section titled "Differentiated Passage" is overlaid on the bottom of the reading passage, specifying "GRADES 6-8". To the right, a "Context Clues" worksheet is visible, featuring a "Name:" field and instructions to write down the meaning of words using context clues. The worksheet includes a list of words: "c. regular", "c. young", "c. required", and "c. random". In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo for "READ WRITE MIDDLE" with the text "MIDDLE" in large, stylized letters.

Summer Vacation

Many students spend the entire year looking forward to summer vacation. Summer vacation brings thoughts of fireworks, swimming, hot summer days and cool summer nights. Summer vacation is a beloved part of life for many. Students having the summer months off has a long history, particularly in the United States. The length of summer vacation fluctuates throughout the world. Different countries may have longer or shorter breaks. Many believe that summer breaks are a product of a history of farming. Summer breaks actually have a more complicated history.

Rural children were often involved in farming with their families. Spring and fall were common times for children to be needed on the family farm. Early American schools were open most of the year, but were not compulsory.

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Context Clues

Write down the meaning of the words using context clues from the passage.

c. regular

c. young

c. required

c. random

DIFFERENTIATED PASSAGE

GRADES 6-8

READ WRITE MIDDLE

# INFORMATIONAL TEXT PASSAGE WRITTEN AT TWO READING LEVELS!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Vacation

Many students spend the entire year looking forward to summer vacation. Summer vacation brings thoughts of fireworks, swimming, hot summer days and cool summer nights. Summer vacation is a beloved part of life for many. Students having the summer months off has a long history, particularly in the United States. The length of summer vacation fluctuates throughout the world. Different countries may have longer or shorter breaks. Many believe that summer breaks are a product of a history of farming. Summer breaks actually have a more complicated history.

Rural children were often involved in farming with their families. Spring and fall were common times for children to be needed on the family farm. Early American schools were open most of the year, but were not compulsory. Children could come when they were able. Rural children could take time off to work on their farms. Children without responsibilities at home could avoid going to school in the extreme heat or cold, since many schools were neither heated nor cooled.

Schools that were open nearly year-round were great for students who needed flexible schedules. Unfortunately, this didn't allow teachers any long break times for planning. When the reform movements of the nineteenth century began in the United States, reformers looked to schools almost immediately. Reformers felt that schools should be standardized with similar schedules all over the country. People disagreed over what schedule worked best, but a compromise was reached. A long summer break allowed urban and rural children to start school at the same time. The break began towards the end of the spring planting season and ended right after the autumn harvest. The break avoided the hottest months of the year.

Some people believe that summer vacation can be detrimental for students. Although summer vacation can be fun, studies have shown that such a long break can actually cause students to lose knowledge. The long break can cause students to forget important skills that they don't use over the break. Also, depending on location, the weather may make it difficult to attend school, especially during the winter.

There may be negative aspects to long summer breaks, but there is no denying that summer vacation can be one of the most fun times of the year. Summer vacation is a major part of the school experience. It is a time to stay out later, participate in outdoor activities, go swimming and more. Summer vacation allows many children to make memories that will last a lifetime.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Vacation

Many students spend the year looking forward to summer vacation. Summer vacation is a beloved part of life for many. Having a break from school during summer has a long history. The length of summer vacation fluctuates all over the world. Different countries may have longer or shorter breaks. Many believe that summer breaks are a product of a history of farming, but this is not entirely true.

Rural children often helped on the farm. Spring and fall were more common times for children to be needed on the family farm. Early American schools were open most of the year, but were not compulsory. Children could come when they were able. Rural children could take time off to work on their farms. Students could also avoid going to school in the extreme heat or cold because many schools were neither heated nor cooled.

Schools that were open nearly year-round were great for students who needed flexible schedules. Unfortunately, this didn't allow teachers any long break time for planning. Some people felt that school should be standardized with similar schedules all over the United States. People disagreed over what schedule worked best, but a compromise was reached. A long summer break allowed children to go to school at the same time. The break began towards the end of the spring planting season and ended right after the fall harvest. This break avoided the hottest months of the year.

Some people believe that summer vacation can be detrimental for students. Studies have shown that a long break can cause students to lose knowledge. The long breaks can cause students to forget important skills that they don't use over the break. Also, the weather may make it difficult to attend school, especially during winter.

There may be negative aspects to long summer breaks, but there is no denying that summer vacation can be fun. Summer vacation has been a major part of the school experience. It is a time to stay out later, participate in outdoor activities, go swimming and more. Summer vacation allows many children to make memories that will last a lifetime.

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# DIFFERENTIATED CONTEXT CLUES ACTIVITY!

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.

- beloved  
a. annoying                      b. cherished                      c. regular  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- fluctuates  
a. maintains                      b. determines                      c. varies  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- rural  
a. country                      b. city                      c. jung  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- compulsory  
a. usual                      b. optional                      c. required  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- standardized  
a. different                      b. consistent                      c. random  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- detrimental  
a. harmful                      b. helpful                      c. ideal  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- aspects  
a. features                      b. declarations                      c. days  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

- beloved: \_\_\_\_\_  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- fluctuates: \_\_\_\_\_  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- rural: \_\_\_\_\_  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- compulsory: \_\_\_\_\_  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- standardized: \_\_\_\_\_  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- detrimental: \_\_\_\_\_  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_
- aspects: \_\_\_\_\_  
context clues: \_\_\_\_\_

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# WRITING ASSIGNMENT AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ALSO INCLUDED!

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 as well.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In the past, many children helped out on their family farm. How could this have affected the education of children who missed school to work?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did a lack of air-conditioning influence the development of a standardized school calendar?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In what ways can a long summer break be harmful for students?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The passage states that summer vacation is a very fun time of the year. What evidence in the passage supports this claim?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing Assignment

While summer vacation can be a fun time to make happy memories with friends and family, some people believe so much time away from school can hurt students. To make up for this, some schools are year-round and follow a calendar that gives breaks throughout the school year instead of one long summer break. In a well written paragraph, please explain whether you believe year-round or traditional calendars are best. In your writing, be sure to include the following:

- Explain which type of calendar you believe is best.
- Explain why you think that type of calendar is best.
- Include specific downsides from the other calendar to support your argument.
- Make sure you proofread your writing to check for spelling and grammar issues.

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