


DECEMBER PAIRED PASSAGES

Name: _____

Nonfiction



Name: _____

Story Elements



Who are the _____

Reindeer




Reindeer are mammals that live in the Arctic tundra and other cold regions of the world. Baby reindeer are called fawns and stay close with their mothers in a herd, which is a group of reindeer. They are a species of deer. In North America, these animals are called caribou.

Reindeer have very distinct looks. The bodies of reindeer are covered in brown, white, and gray fur. They also have huge antlers on the top of their heads. These antlers grow on both male and female reindeer. Reindeer can grow up to five feet tall and seven feet long. Their antlers can give them an extra couple of feet in height. Reindeer have fur on the bottom of their hooves to keep their hooves warm in the snow and prevent them from slipping on ice.

Reindeer are herbivores, which means they eat plants and other natural foods that grow from the ground, such as moss and lichen. Adult reindeer can eat up to twelve pounds of food each day. These animals migrate quite often. Migrate means to travel to a different place, usually in search of a different climate. In the winter, they migrate North. The

Reindeer Tryouts

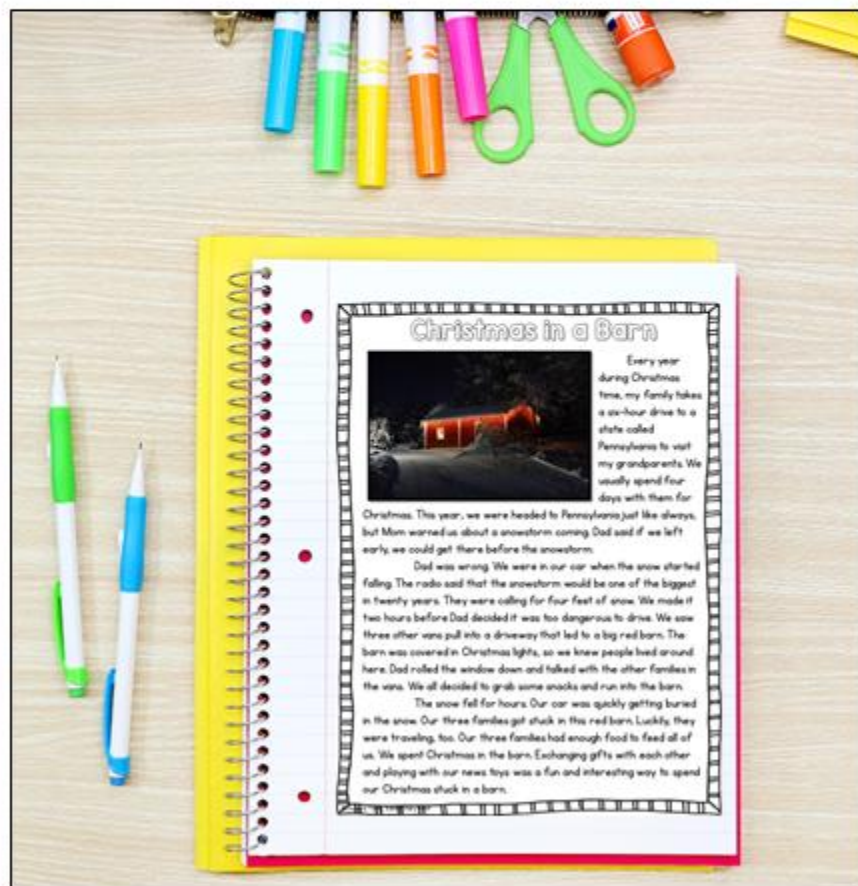


Santa's annual tryouts are coming soon. He comes around to our tundra every year looking for a reindeer. He wants a reindeer for back-up. He already has nine reindeer that pull his sleigh, but he always searches for one more just in case one of them gets sick. I am finally old enough this year to compete in Santa's tryouts. My family is helping me prepare.

Every morning, I wake up and practice flying into the air at a fast speed. It isn't easy. I have to run for exactly five seconds, pulling a heavy sled behind me. Then, I have to fly off into the air at the right time. If I'm too late, I'll be disqualified on the day of the tryouts. This is definitely the most difficult task.

After I practice taking off, I practice landing. This is a very important part of the tryouts because Santa is looking for the quietest reindeer landing. We have to practice flying down from the sky and landing our hooves on a roof. This is usually pretty easy, but Santa

WHAT TEACHERS SAY...



“This was a great product! It was just what I needed. My students enjoyed the activities. They were great in my small group reading.”

“We started our Christmas themed unit a little early this year to bring in some holiday cheer! The kids loved every bit of it and can’t wait to get deeper into different holidays around the world. Thank you!”

“Wonderful this time of year to teach the new item types and bring in the holidays!”

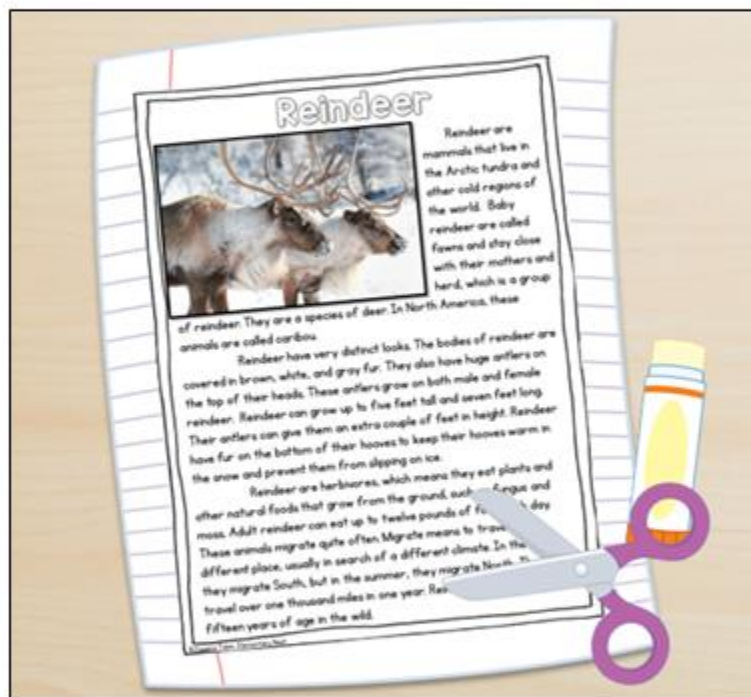
TOPICS INCLUDED

Story Titles

Nonfiction Fiction	Reindeer Reindeer Tryouts
Nonfiction Fiction	Christmas Christmas in a Barn
Nonfiction Fiction	Hanukkah Lighting the Menorah
Nonfiction Fiction	Winter Snow Day Tricks
Nonfiction Fiction	Holidays Around the World Presenting My Holiday



PAPER OPTIONS

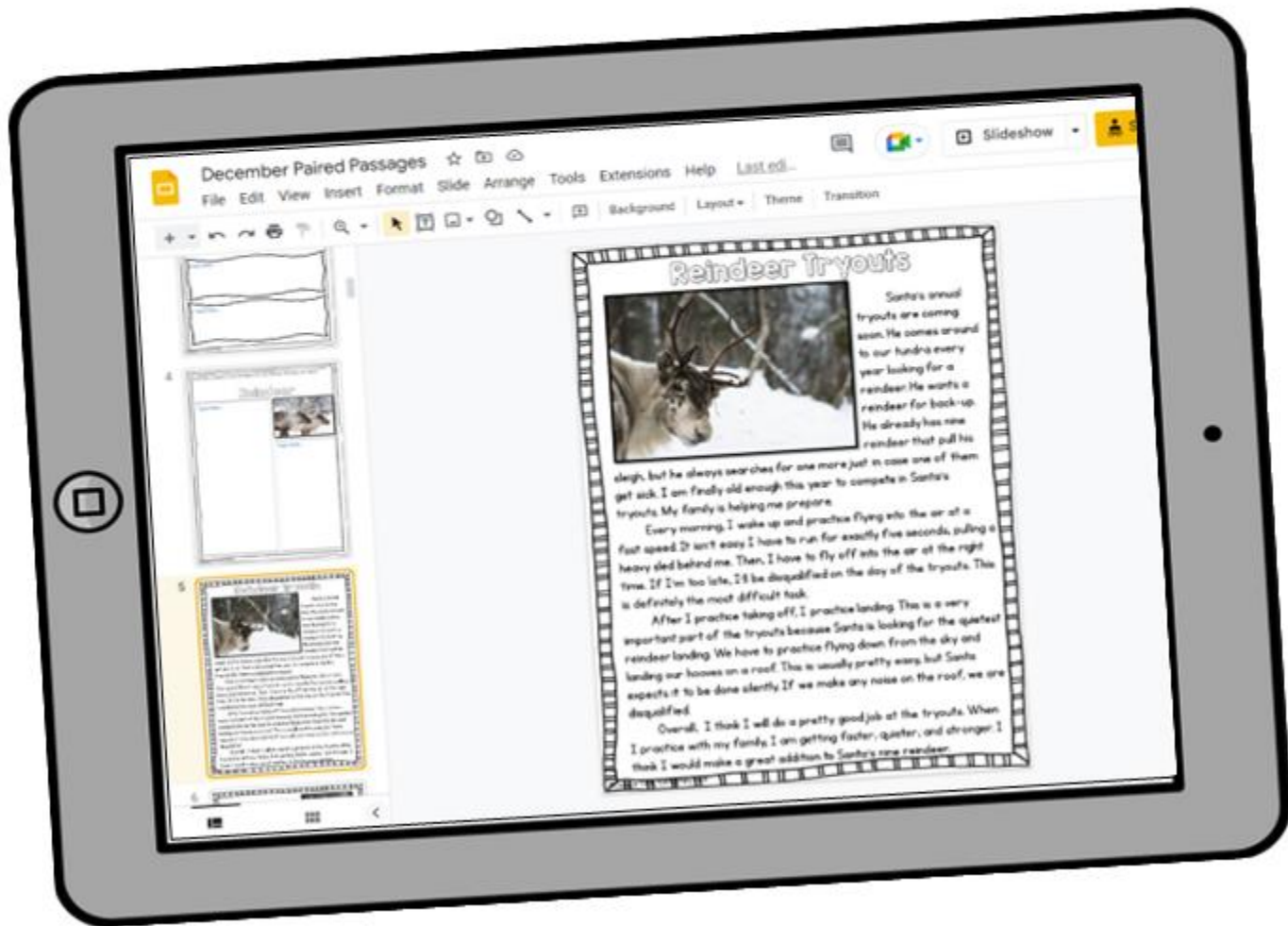


There are three options for these paired passages.

- Traditional printed worksheets
- Interactive notebook style
- Digital conversion in Google Slides (shown on next page)

DIGITAL OPTIONS

The paired passage sets are now also available in Google Slides format.



REINDEER SET

Facts About Reindeer

Name: _____



Reindeer

Name: _____



Comparing Texts

Name: _____

Reindeer



1. How are the two passages similar?

2. How are the two passages different?

3. Write one thing you've learned about _____

Story Elements

Name: _____



Who are the main characters?

What happens in the story?

Where does the story take place?

Predict what happens and write a story about the day of tryouts for the reindeer.



Reindeer



Reindeer are mammals that live in the Arctic tundra and other cold regions of the world. Baby reindeer are called fawns and stay close with their mothers and herd, which is a group of reindeer. They are a species of deer. In North America, these animals are called caribou.

Reindeer have very distinct looks. The bodies of reindeer are covered in brown, white, and gray fur. They also have huge antlers on the top of their heads. These antlers grow on both male and female reindeer. Reindeer can grow up to five feet tall and seven feet long. Their antlers can give them an extra couple of feet in height. Reindeer have fur on the bottom of their hooves to keep their hooves warm in the snow and prevent them from slipping on ice.

Reindeer are herbivores, which means they eat plants and other natural foods that grow from the ground, such as fungus and moss. Adult reindeer can eat up to twelve pounds of food each day. These animals migrate quite often. Migrate means to travel to a different place, usually in search of a different climate. In the winter, they migrate South, but in the summer, they migrate North. They can travel over one thousand miles in one year. Reindeer can live up to fifteen years of age in the wild.

Nonfiction Questions

Name: _____



What type of animal is a reindeer?

Explain the type of diet a reindeer has.

Describe a reindeer's body.

Do reindeer travel? Explain.

Reindeer Tryouts



Santa's annual tryouts are coming soon. He comes around to our houses every year looking for a reindeer to work as a reindeer for back-up. He already has nine reindeer that pull his sleigh, but he always searches for one more just in case one of them gets sick. I am finally old enough this year to compete in Santa's tryouts. My family is helping me prepare.

Every morning, I wake up and practice flying into the air at a fast speed. It isn't easy. I have to run for exactly five seconds, pulling a heavy sled behind me. Then, I have to fly off into the air at the right time. If I'm too late, I'll be disqualified on the day of the tryouts. This is definitely the most difficult task.

After I practice taking off, I practice landing. This is a very important part of the tryouts because Santa is looking for the quietest reindeer landing. We have to practice flying down from the sky and landing our hooves on a roof. This is usually pretty easy, but Santa expects it to be done silently. If we make any noise on the roof, we are disqualified.

Overall, I think I will do a pretty good job at the tryouts. When I practice with my family, I am getting faster, quieter, and stronger. I think I would make a great addition to Santa's reindeer.

Fiction Questions

Name: _____



1. Why does Santa have tryouts every year?

2. What will be the most difficult task for this reindeer?

3. Identify two character traits that this reindeer has.

4. What two events will Santa have at his tryouts?

CHRISTMAS SET

Facts About Christmas

Name: _____

Read the text and answer the questions. Copy the words from the text. Then complete with a sentence.

Comparing Texts

Name: _____

CHRISTMAS

1 How are the two passages similar?

2 How are the two passages different?

3 Write one thing you've learned about _____

Story Elements

Name: _____

Read and answer the questions. Copy the words from the text. Then complete with a sentence.

Who are the main characters?

What happens in the story?

Where does the story take place?

Christmas in a Barn

Name: _____

Describe the sequence of Christmas in a Barn.

Christmas

Christmas is a holiday that is celebrated in December in different countries around the world. In America, Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. The month of December is typically spent in preparation for this holiday. Families shop for Christmas presents that will be given on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Families also decorate their houses with lights, wreaths, stockings, and a Christmas tree. These Christmas trees are evergreen trees with ugly pine needles. They can be real or fake. Families decorate them with ornaments and lights.

Christmas is a Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Many traditions formed over the years for the Christmas holiday. One of these traditions is Santa Claus delivering gifts. Santa flies in a sleigh on Christmas Eve while families are sleeping. He delivers toys to boys and girls around the world. He puts his gifts under the Christmas tree and into their stockings. Some children write letters to Santa Claus before Christmas. These letters include lots of items they would like to receive for Christmas.

Another tradition is giving and receiving gifts with friends and family. People wrap up presents to give to each other. They use wrapping paper, gift bags, and bows. They keep their presents under the Christmas tree until Christmas arrives. Christmas is celebrated in many different ways with different traditions for each family.

Nonfiction Questions

Name: _____

What is Christmas?

What do families do in preparation for Christmas?

Identify one tradition that takes place on Christmas.

Write one fact you learned about Christmas from the text.

Christmas in a Barn

Every year during Christmas time, my family takes a six-hour drive to a state called Pennsylvania to visit my grandparents. We usually spend four days with them for Christmas. This year, we were headed to Pennsylvania just like always, but Mom warned us about a snowstorm coming. Dad said if we left early, we could get there before the snowstorm.

Dad was wrong. We were in our car when the snow started falling. The radio said that the snowstorm would be one of the biggest in twenty years. They were calling for four feet of snow. We made it two hours before Dad decided it was too dangerous to drive. We saw three other vans pull into a driveway that led to a big red barn. The barn was covered in Christmas lights, so we knew people lived around here. Dad rolled the window down and talked with the other families in the vans. We all decided to grab some snacks and run into the barn.

The snow fell for hours. Our car was quickly getting buried in the snow. Our three families got stuck in this red barn. Luckily, they were traveling too. Our three families had enough food to feed all of us. We spent Christmas in the barn. Exchanging gifts with each other and playing with our new toys was a fun and interesting way to spend our Christmas stuck in a barn.

Fiction Questions

Name: _____

1 Where is the family going? And why are they going there?

2 How was Dad wrong?

3 How did the family stay safe?

4 Do you think the family made a good choice?

WINTER SET

Facts About Winter
Name: _____

Comparing Texts
Name: _____
Winter
1. How are the two passages similar?

2. How are the two passages different?

3. Write one thing you've learned about

Story Elements
Name: _____
Who are the main characters?

What happens in the story?

Where does the story take place?

Nonfiction Questions
Name: _____
Winter
What are things people don't like about winter?

What are things people do like about winter?

What is the Winter Solstice and what is it?

Describe the weather during the winter.

Snow Day Tricks
Name: _____
38 and Sarah were two friends in Ms. Smith's class. Ms. Smith told the class that snow might come tonight. She taught the class three tricks to make snow come, which she called the "Snow Day Tricks". The first trick she described was to wear your pajamas inside out. This made 38 and Sarah's class giggle. The second trick was to sleep with a spoon under your pillow, which made the class laugh even harder. And the third and final trick was to flush an ice cube down the toilet. The entire class laughed so loud at this trick. After school, Ms. Smith reminded the class to remember their snow come, which she called the "Snow Day Tricks".
38 and Sarah called each other that night asking if they did all of their tricks. Both of them did their tricks and were about to head to sleep. 38 asked Sarah if she saw any snow yet. Sarah said no, but they did both have on their pajamas inside out with a spoon under their pillow. "38, no school today. You guys have a snow day!" 38 jumped out of bed, looked out the window, and saw that there was white snow covering the ground. 38 looked down, saw her made out pajamas and laughed. She asked her mom if she could call Sarah to invite her over for sledding and snowman building. Her mom said of course, but she needed to wait until the sun came up!

Fiction Questions
Name: _____
Continue telling the story of 38 and Sarah's snow day.
1. What were the three tricks?

2. Why do you think the class laughed when Ms. Smith told them about the tricks?

3. Did the tricks work? How do you know?

4. How do you think Sarah and 38 felt when they called each other on the phone?

Winter
Name: _____
Winter is one of the four seasons. It is the coldest season, which begins in December and ends in March. It lasts for three cold months. Winter begins on the winter solstice, which is the day of the year with the least amount of sunshine. The solstice is either December 20th or December 21st.
Winter brings new weather, as well. This is the season when freezing temperatures cause new forms of precipitation begin to fall as well, such as snow, ice, sleet, and freezing rain. These are dangerous forms of weather because they can make walking and driving very unsafe for people. Sometimes, the wind still makes it so cold that people can't stay outside for long periods of time. Animals usually migrate away or hibernate through the cold months, too.
Winter is not always bad, though. Many people love the season of winter because of the fun it brings. Winter sports happen during the season. When there is enough snow on the ground, people can do sports such as snowboarding, sledding, or skiing. Another fun option during snowy days is building snowmen.
So, while some people may think that winter is the worst season because of the lowest temperatures, shortest days, and dangerous driving conditions, other people love it because of the activities that snow can bring.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Comparing Texts
Holidays Around the World

1. How are the two passages similar?
2. How are the two passages different?
3. Write one thing you've learned about

Story Elements

Who are the main characters?
What happens in the story?
Where does the story take place?

Christmas Around the World

Christmas is a popular holiday celebrated in America. America is not the only place that it is celebrated, though. It is also celebrated in countries like Australia, Sweden, France, England, Brazil, Germany, Netherlands, and many other countries.

It is not the same in these countries though. There are many differences in the holiday from country to country. For example, in Brazil, families visit churches for Midnight Mass and Father Noel visits them that night. In England, children write letters to Father Christmas and send them in the mail. There is also a Royal Message on the television delivered by the queen. In France, a visitor named Père Noel comes on Christmas Eve and fills up shoes by the fireplace. He also hangs sweets and toys on the tree. In Germany, gingerbread houses are a very popular tradition and there is usually more than one Christmas tree in their houses. Christkind is the visitor who visits German children. In the Netherlands, children lay out wooden shoes outside of their doors, filled with carrots and hay for a man named Sinterklaas and his horse. He leaves them toys and candy in return.

Christmas is very different around the world. This shows how different cultures and traditions can be in other parts of the world.

Nonfiction Questions

What are some of the countries that celebrate Christmas?
How is Christmas celebrated in Netherlands?
Describe how Christmas is celebrated in England.
How is Christmas celebrated in Germany?

Presenting My Holiday

Mr. Turner gave our class a project. The project was to choose a country that celebrates Christmas and make a presentation on the country. This was a big problem. I am the world's shiest person. I do not like talking in front of my class. I still had to follow Mr. Turner's directions, though, so I chose to make my presentation all about Sweden's Christmas.

The day of the presentations, there were three students who went before me. Joe talked about England's traditions. Jessica talked about Brazil's traditions. And Hannah talked about France's traditions. Then Mr. Turner called me. I was shaking and I felt like I might faint. I stood up straight in front of my friends and began to read my presentation.

I started reading, "Christmas in Sweden is very different from Christmas in America. In Sweden, families start their tradition with a day called St. Lucia's Day when young boys and girls dress in white robes and red sashes. They will make a breakfast meal for their families. Another tradition for people in Sweden is the gift giving tradition. Tontje is a mini Christmas gnome who brings gifts to Swedish families. These are some of the ways that Sweden celebrates Christmas."

Then, I showed the class my poster for all of the things I had talked about. They all clapped for me when I was finished. I felt so proud of myself!

Fiction Questions

1. What were the three presentations about before the main character's speech?
2. What country did she pick? What is one fact about this country's Christmas?
3. How did she feel when she was finished?
4. Why was it such a problem at the beginning when her teacher told her about the project?