

Build comprehension & close reading skills

Use the readers for small groups. Use the articles for whole group lessons.




Name _____ **MATTER** ●

Soaring with Science

Hot air balloons fly slowly in the sky. A hot air balloon carries people in a basket with a big balloon. A plane flies with an engine. How does a hot air balloon go up? How do they land it?

Air is a gas. Gases do not have a shape. They fill up the space that they are put into-like a balloon! Before a hot air balloon is filled, it lays flat on the ground. Air is put into the balloon with big fans. This makes the balloon fill up because the gas fills up all the space inside the balloon. The balloon is still on the ground. If the balloon is full of air, then why doesn't it fly?

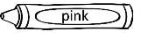

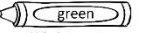
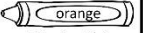


There is a burner at the base of the balloon. It makes a fire that makes the air inside the balloon get hotter. Hot air weighs less than cold air. Gases are made up of small parts called molecules. In hot air, the molecules are far apart. This makes the air light. In cold air, the molecules are close together. The cold air is heavy. Once the air inside the balloon is hotter than the air outside of the balloon, up it goes!

The burner does not stay on for the whole flight. As the balloon flies, the hot air inside will cool off. This makes the balloon go down. To make it go back up, the pilot will pull the burner to heat up the air again. If it is time to land, the pilot will let the air slowly cool. As the air inside the balloon gets cooler, the balloon will land on the ground because the cooler air is heavier.

Riding in a hot air balloon can be fun! You can fly through the sky and look down at the Earth! Did you know there was so much science needed to keep a hot air balloon in the sky? If you take a trip, you will be an expert!

UNDERLINE THE ANSWERS IN THE TEXT

 pink  blue  green  orange

How is air pumped into a hot air balloon? What does the burner do? What are gases made up of? Why is cold air heavier than hot air?

Name _____ **Soaring** ▲

CAUSE AND EFFECT

6. What is causing the hot air balloon to rise?

Causes _____

Effect _____

Name _____ **Soaring with Science** ▲

TEXT PURPOSE


1. Why do you think the author wrote this text?

to explain something

to answer a question

to describe something

AUTHOR'S REASONS

2.  Highlight a reason the author gives for what will make the hot air balloon land. Write the reason below.

3. Write three questions in which the answers could be found in the text.

① _____

② _____

③ _____

MAIN TOPIC

4. What is the 2nd paragraph mostly about? _____

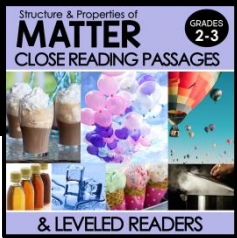
5. Write a sentence that tells the main idea of the text.

Reading levels discretely marked on each cover.

● 400-500L

▲ 500-600L

◆ 600-700L



Easily differentiate for all students

Reading level range

● 400-500L ▲ 500-600L ◆ 600-700L

Instant Ice Cream ◆

Ice cream is a great way to cool off on a summer afternoon! It's fun to go to your favorite ice cream shop. Did you know that some ice cream shops make the ice cream in front of you? They mix all the ingredients together and it immediately freezes! They use liquid nitrogen to turn the fresh ingredients into a frozen dessert!

Nitrogen is a gas that has no smell or taste. Nitrogen can change from form to form. When it is cooled to -320 degrees Fahrenheit, it turns into a liquid. Temperature can change the state of matter. Liquid nitrogen looks like boiling water.

When you watch someone make ice cream, you can see how quickly it freezes. First, they mix the ingredients together. Next, they add sugar and vanilla. Now, imagine! They use liquid nitrogen to produce the ice cream. It starts to take shape as they stir it. Heavily, they stir it. Heavily, they stir it. Heavily, they stir it.

Nitrogen is a gas. It has no smell or taste. Nitrogen can change from form to form. When it is cooled to -320 degrees Fahrenheit, it turns into a liquid. Temperature can change the state of matter. Liquid nitrogen looks like boiling water.

You can watch the ice cream being made. To make it, they use a steel bowl. First, they mix half and half with milk. Next, they add sugar and vanilla. They stir it until it is smooth. Now is the fun part- you can add any sweets that you like! You can add candy or fruit! Then, it is time to add the liquid nitrogen. They slowly add the liquid nitrogen into the bowl. The liquid nitrogen makes a fog over the bowl. Adding the very cold nitrogen changes the liquid to a solid. It starts to take shape as they stir it. The nitrogen freezes the fat and water in the mixture. Soon you will have ice cream. At last, you can eat your ice cream! If it is hot outside, be careful. The heat from the sun can turn your ice cream back into a liquid!

How can ice cream shops make ice cream so fast?

Instant Ice Cream ▲

Ice cream is delicious on a hot summer day. It's fun to go to your favorite ice cream shop. Did you know that some ice cream shops make the ice cream right in front of you? They mix all the ingredients together and freeze it quickly. They use liquid nitrogen to turn the fresh ingredients into a frozen dessert!

Nitrogen is a gas. It has no smell or taste. Nitrogen can change from form to form. When it is cooled to -320 degrees Fahrenheit, it turns into a liquid. Temperature can change the state of matter. Liquid nitrogen looks like boiling water.

At a time, you can watch someone make ice cream. Especially, you can watch someone make ice cream. Especially, you can watch someone make ice cream. Especially, you can watch someone make ice cream.

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How can ice cream shops make ice cream so fast?

Instant Ice Cream ●

Ice cream is a great treat on a hot day! It's fun to go to your favorite ice cream shop. Did you know that some ice cream shops make the ice cream in front of you? They mix all the ingredients together and freeze it fast. They use liquid nitrogen to turn the fresh ingredients into a frozen treat!

Nitrogen is a gas. It has no smell or taste. Nitrogen can change from form to form. When it is cooled to -320 degrees Fahrenheit, it turns into a liquid. Temperature can change the state of matter. Liquid nitrogen looks like boiling water.

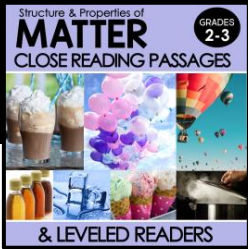
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How can ice cream shops make ice cream so fast?

Reading Levels Conversion Chart

Reading level ranges: The passages are written in reading levels that range from beginning of the year 2nd grade to mid-year 3rd grade and are comparable to the following leveling systems:

Grade level	Lexile	Fountas & Pinnell	DRA
1st	80-450	I	16
1 st - 2nd	80-459	J	18
2nd	501-550	K	20
2nd	551-600	L	24
2nd	551-650	M	28
3rd	520-730	N	30
3rd	520-770	O	34



Identical questions for each level

Discrete leveling

Passages are marked for easy teacher planning

Identical questions

Identical questions for each level allow you to discuss the questions all together even when students are using passages in different reading levels.

Three overlapping reading passages for 'Small Pieces: the Watts Tower Wonder' are shown, each with a different reading level marker: a diamond (top), a circle (middle), and a square (bottom).

Top Passage (Diamond Marker): The text is partially visible, showing the beginning of the story about the Watts Towers in California.

Middle Passage (Circle Marker): The text is partially visible, showing the beginning of the story about the Watts Towers in California.

Bottom Passage (Square Marker):

Name _____


Small Pieces: the Watts Tower Wonder

The Watts Towers are a sight to see in California. They are three cone-shaped towers. One is ninety-nine feet tall. Simon Rodia worked very hard building the towers. He worked day and night. He never said why he built the towers, but people are happy that he did.

The Watts towers were built without plans. Rodia came up with the plan as he built them! He did not have much money. He needed to pick materials that he could find for free. For the frame, he used pipes that he wrapped in a wire. Then he covered them with cement. They were very strong. Rodia did not have tall ladders. He used a window washer belt. He hooked himself to the tower. To make the tower strong, Rodia would add more pipes up and down the tower. The pipes went in circles around the tower too.

The towers are covered with small pieces of glass, shells, and tile. Kids would bring him scraps that they found. The kids hoped that their scraps would be put on the tower. Most of the **decor** on the tower is broken pottery. All of the pieces make the tower very pretty. There are lots of colors too.

Rodia quit after thirty-four years. The town wanted to knock the towers down. Some artists wanted to save it. They needed to make sure the towers were stable. A crane pulled on the towers. The crane could not make the towers fall or move. They let the towers stay up. They are still there today. If you ever go to Los Angeles, you should see the Watts Towers. It is amazing to see such a huge tower. They are built with such simple things!



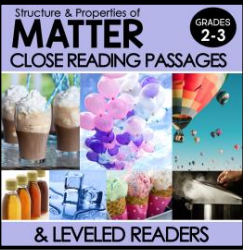
UNDERLINE THE ANSWERS IN THE TEXT

pink Who built the Watts Towers?

blue How did Rodia make the towers strong and stable?

green What materials are the towers covered with?

orange How long did Rodia work on the towers before quitting?



Address reading standards



Name _____ MATTER

Instant Ice Cream

Ice cream is a great treat on a hot day! It's fun to go to your favorite ice cream shop. Did you know that some ice cream shops make the ice cream in front of you? They mix all the ingredients together and freeze it fast. They use liquid nitrogen to turn the fresh ingredients into a frozen treat.

Nitrogen is a gas. It has no smell or taste. Nitrogen can change into a liquid. When it is cooled to -320 degrees Fahrenheit, it turns into a liquid. Temperature can change the state of matter. Liquid nitrogen looks like boiling water.

You can watch the ice cream being made. To make it, they use a steel bowl. First, they mix half and half with milk. Next, they add sugar and vanilla. They stir it until it is smooth. Now is the fun part: you can add any sweets that you like! You can add candy or fruit! Then, it is time to add the liquid nitrogen. They slowly add the liquid nitrogen into the bowl. The liquid nitrogen makes a fog over the bowl. Adding the very cold nitrogen changes the liquid to a solid. It starts to take shape as they stir it. The nitrogen freezes the fat and water in the mixture. Soon you will have ice cream. At last, you can eat your ice cream! If it is hot outside, be careful. The heat from the sun can turn your ice cream back into a liquid. Your ice cream can melt!

Nitrogen ice cream is very cold and creamy. Give it a try! It will be fun to have a taste test. See if you like nitrogen ice cream better than ice cream from your freezer!

UNDERLINE THE ANSWERS IN THE TEXT

pink blue green orange

How can some ice cream shops make ice cream in front of you? What does liquid nitrogen look like? What do ice cream makers do first when they make ice cream? What happens when ice cream makers add liquid nitrogen?

Use the question pages for both formats

Students practice these skills:

- Ask & answer questions
- Read & comprehend informational text
- Main Topic
- Text features
- Text purpose
- Word meanings
- Context clues
- Cause & effect

Name _____ Instant Ice Cream MATTER

ASK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

- What do some ice cream shops use to turn the fresh ingredients into a frozen treat?
- Write three questions in which the answers could be found in the text.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

MAIN TOPIC

- What is the text mostly about?
- Write a sentence that tells the main idea of the text.

READ AND COMPREHEND

- Circle three important words in the text. Write them below. _____
- Is freezing ice cream a reversible or irreversible change? _____
- How can you change nitrogen gas to a liquid? _____

WORDS/CONTEXT CLUES

the word nitrogen in the second paragraph. Explain what this word _____

Circle words in the text that give you clues to its meaning. _____

TEXT FEATURES

Highlight the sentence in the text that tells how _____ can change the ice cream. _____

steps to make nitrogen ice cream.

→	→	↓
←	←	

Reinforce science content


Reinforce science content while building reading skills

Name _____ MATTER ●

Soaring with Science

Hot air balloons fly slowly in the sky. A hot air balloon carries people in a basket with a big balloon. A plane flies with an engine. How does a hot air balloon go up? How do they land it?

Air is a gas. Gases do not have a shape. They fill up the space that they are put into-like a balloon! Before a hot air balloon is filled, it lays flat on the ground. Air is put into the balloon with big fans. This makes the balloon fill up because the gas fills up all the space inside the balloon. The balloon is still on the ground. If the balloon is full of air, then why doesn't it fly?



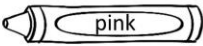
Heating and inflating a hot air balloon

There is a burner at the base of the balloon. It makes a fire that makes the air inside the balloon get hotter. Hot air weighs less than cold air. Gases are made up of small parts called molecules. In hot air, the molecules are far apart. This makes the air light. In cold air, the molecules are close together. The cold air is heavy. Once the air inside the balloon is hotter than the air outside of the balloon, up it goes!

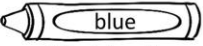
The burner does not stay on for the whole flight. As the balloon flies, the hot air inside will cool off. This makes the balloon go down. To make it go back up, the pilot will pull the burner to heat up the air again. If it is time to land, the pilot will let the air slowly cool. As the air inside the balloon gets cooler, the balloon will land on the ground because the cooler air is heavier.

Riding in a hot air balloon can be fun! You can fly through the sky and look down at the Earth! Did you know there was so much science needed to keep a hot air balloon in the sky? If you take a trip, you will be an expert!

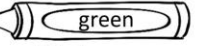
UNDERLINE THE ANSWERS IN THE TEXT



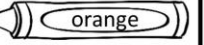
How is air pumped into a hot air balloon?



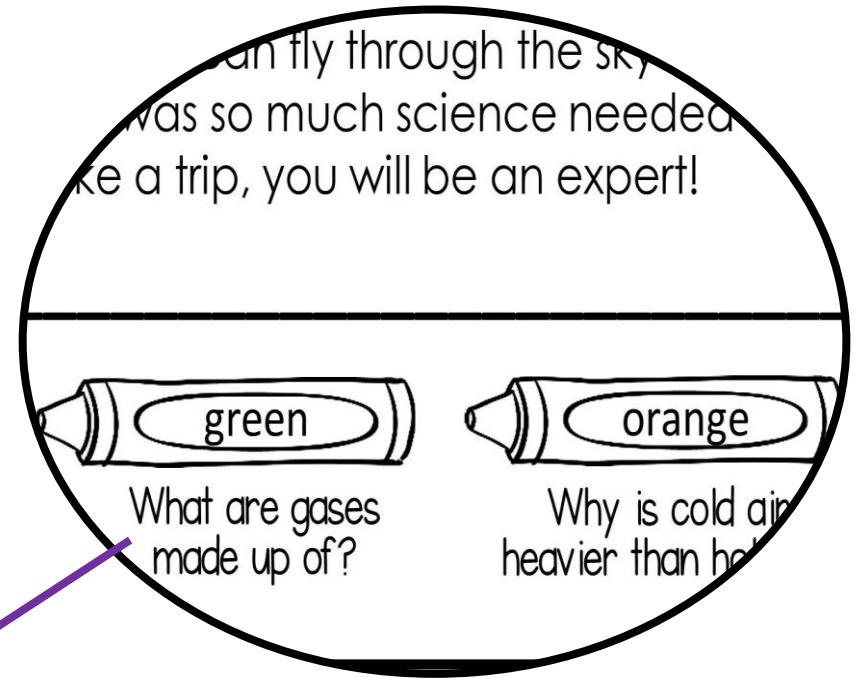
What does the burner do?



What are gases made up of?



Why is cold air heavier than hot air?



... can fly through the sky
... was so much science needed
... ke a trip, you will be an expert!

green orange

What are gases made up of? Why is cold air heavier than hot air?

Students locate and color code answers in the text


MATTER

How Do Astronauts Eat in Space?

What if you were eating dinner and your meat and peas floated away! On Earth, solid foods stay on the plate. Solids have weight and shape. Astronauts could have their food float away! There is no gravity in space. The food has no weight. Eating might be hard for them! Astronauts need to have special food and drinks in space. It makes eating easy! Astronauts eat many foods that are the same as you and me! They are made in a different way so they don't float away!

Food has to stay fresh for a long time. It cannot spoil on the space shuttle. The food needs to be dried out. They cook the food on Earth. The food is frozen. Then they suck all the water out. This makes the food light. The food can stay good for many months. The astronauts need to add water to the bag of food. Then they can eat it.

How do you think astronauts drink on the shuttle? On Earth, liquids have the same shape as the cup. In space, the drinks would float in the air. Astronauts' drinks have to come in a powder. The drinks are in a bag, too! The astronauts add water into a straw to get it in the bag. They can drink it out of the bag! It's like a juice box! Astronauts cannot drink soda in space. Soda has gas in it. In space, the bubbles don't float to the top! The gas cannot get out of the drink. The astronauts drink more of the gas. The gas can get trapped in their belly! It hurts!



Astronauts order their food before they go into space. New food comes every few months. Do you think you would like eating the space food? If you like new foods, you may like space food. If you are a picky eater, you might not! What would you order off the space menu?

DRAG AND HIGHLIGHT THE ANSWERS IN THE TEXT

Why would an astronaut's food float away?

What needs to happen to food so it will stay fresh in space?

What do astronauts' drinks look like in space?

When do astronauts order their space food?

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MATTER

How do astronauts EAT IN SPACE?

Word Bank

Use context clues to help you write the meaning.

gravity- _____

fresh- _____

powder- _____

Underline the answers in the text.


red What needs to happen to food so it will stay fresh in space?

blue What do astronauts' drinks look like in space?

green When do astronauts order their space food?



MATTER




How do you think astronauts drink on the shuttle? On Earth, liquids have the same shape as the cup. In space, the drinks would float in the air. Astronauts' drinks have to come in a powder. The drinks are in a bag, too! The astronauts add water into a straw to get it in the bag. They can drink it out of the bag! It's like a juice box! Astronauts cannot drink soda in space. Soda has gas in it. In space, the bubbles don't float to the top! The gas cannot get out of the drink. The astronauts drink more of the gas. The gas can get trapped in their belly! It hurts!

Vacuum-sealed space food

What if you were eating dinner and your meat and peas floated away! On Earth, solid foods stay on the plate. Solids have weight and shape. Astronauts could have their food float away! There is no gravity in space. The food has no weight. Eating might be hard for them! Astronauts need to have special food and drinks in space. It makes eating easy! Astronauts eat many foods that are the same as you and me! They are made in a different way so they don't float away!

Food has to stay fresh for a long time. It cannot spoil on the space shuttle. The food needs to be dried out. They cook the food on Earth. The food is frozen. Then they suck all the water out. This makes the food light. The food can stay good for many months. The astronauts need to add water to the bag of food. Then they can eat it.

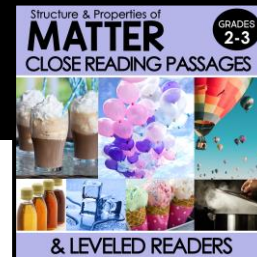
Astronauts order their food before they go into space. New food comes every few months. Do you think you would like eating the space food? If you like new foods, you might not! What would you order off the space menu?



Astronaut eating in space

Digital options included on Google Slides

Time-saving teachers notes



MATTER

Teacher's Notes

This resource includes 4 properties of matter related passages in 2 formats. Using the same content, each passage is included in an article format and a book format. All are provided in 3 reading levels. This gives you 12 leveled passages in 2 formats, for 24 choices in all. These passages provide ready-to-use comprehension and close reading practice for your students and can be used for whole group close reading lessons or with small groups & literacy centers. **Readers are located in File 2.**

The same questions pages are intended to be used with both formats. Answer keys follow each set of questions pages. Readers are located in File 2 of your download.

NOTE: the photographs in the passages were left in color for two reasons. 1) to retain their clarity and detail when you print them by using a high quality Kerox copying originals with black & white photos often results in fuzzy images. 2) color photos are more interesting to students when projected for whole group use or by uploading the PDF to your devices for individual use.

EASILY DIFFERENTIATE Each passage is available in 3 different reading levels ranging from beginning 2nd grade to beginning 3rd grade. the passages can be used whole group or in guided reading groups. Reading levels are marked with the following symbols:

READING LEVEL RANGES

● 350-450L ▲ 450-550L ◆ 550-650L

Passages are comparable to the following leveling systems:

Lexile: 350-650 Fountas & Pinnell: J-N DRA: 18-30

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: The text dependent questions at the bottom of each passage and the additional page of comprehension questions are identical for each level. This allows you to use the passages whole group if you wish and to discuss the questions all together, even if students are using different reading levels.

PROCEDURE: The passages are intended to be used for at least two readings.

- **First read:** Students read the passage and answer text dependent comprehension questions color coding the text evidence.

Teaching tips & procedures

Overview & standards alignment

Learning Targets & Standards Addressed

Each passage and reader addresses a combination of the following learning targets:

ASK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RI.2.2

Ask and answer questions such as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in text.

MAINTOPIC RI.2.2

Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text, as well as focus on specific paragraphs within the text.

TEXT FEATURES RI.2.5

Know and use a variety of text features to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

WORD MEANINGS RI.2.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.

TEXT PURPOSE RI.2.6

Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

READ AND COMPREHEND RI.2.10

Read and comprehend informational text, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

States & Properties of
MATTER

GRADE
2



LEVELED READING PASSAGES

Ready-to-use
COMPREHENSION
and
CLOSE READING
practice for
your students

Related science units:

