



# READ ABOUT 14 COUNTRIES

## 3 LEVELED PASSAGES FOR EACH COUNTRY

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Israel    | Italy   |
| France    | India   |
| England   | China   |
| Australia | Sweden  |
| Mexico    | Germany |
| Indonesia | Canada  |
| Kwanzaa   | Russia  |

**Traditions in FRANCE**

READING Around the WORLD

Reread the passage.  
Number the paragraphs.  
Circle any words you do not know.  
Answer the questions using the text.

I. What is the text mostly about?

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**Traditions in FRANCE**

READING Around the WORLD

**St. Nicholas Day**

Christmas is celebrated the whole month of December in France. There are many fun things to do. St. Nicholas Day is on December 6<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas fills children's shoes with candy. He might also hang toys on the Christmas tree.

People will visit markets in France. Markets are in small villages with wooden booths. The booths have colorful lights. People can get crafts, Christmas cakes...

**Traditions in FRANCE**

READING Around the WORLD

**St. Nicholas Day**

Christmas is celebrated the whole month of December in France. There are many ways the holiday is celebrated. St. Nicholas Day is December 6. On this day, St. Nicholas fills children's shoes with candy. He might also hang toys on the Christmas tree.

People in France might also visit markets. Markets are in small villages with wooden booths. The booths are decorated with colorful lights. People can buy crafts, cakes, and meats. Many people will also buy statues for their Nativity scenes. Crepes are a popular treat as well. Crepes are thin cakes sprinkled with sugar.

*St. Nicholas*

**Festival of Lights**

The Festival of Lights is also celebrated during December. This festival lasts four days. The whole town is decorated with colorful lights. There are also colorful candles in all the windows. Many people travel from around France to see these colorful display.

*Filled shoes on St. Nicholas Day*

Underline the answers in the text.

red blue green orange

What can people get at the Christmas market?

Who fills the children's shoes with candy?

When is St. Nicholas Day?

How long does the Festival of Lights last?

blue green orange

Who fills the children's shoes with candy?

When is St. Nicholas Day?

How long does the Festival of Lights last?



This page contains 14 reading passages, each with a title, text, image, and a reading level indicator (green for 'Level 1' and orange for 'Level 2').

- Traditions in SWEDEN**
  - The Swedish Santa**: Did you know in Sweden Santa is a gnome named Tomten...
  - St. Lucia's Day**: Two weeks before Christmas, people celebrate Saint Lucia's Day...
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of panettone)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Kwanzaa kinara and fruit)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Surfing Santas)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Big Ben clock tower)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Indonesian boy holding a fanus)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Hanukkah menorah)
- Traditions in INDIA**
  - Diwali**: Diwali is the most important holiday in India. It celebrates the victory of good over evil...
  - Preparing for Diwali**: During Diwali, people decorate the doorways. This is said to bring happiness into the home...
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of St. Nicholas)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Santa Claus Parade)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of New Year lantern decorations)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Grandfather Frost)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Advent wreath)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Las Posadas procession)
- READING Around the WORLD** (with image of Advent wreath)



# EASILY DIFFERENTIATE

Page	 <b>READING Around the WORLD</b>	Lexile Level ◆	Lexile Level ◆◆	Lexile Level ◆◆◆
6-10	France	400	590	620
11-15	England	450	570	690
16-20	Italy	380	570	620
21-25	Germany	480	560	710
26-30	Mexico	470	570	690
31-35	China	470	540	720
36-40	India	460	560	720
41-45	Israel	490	520	660
46-50	Sweden	460	590	720
51-55	Kwanzaa	530	620	680
56-60	Russia	480	550	700
61-65	Australia	490	580	710
66-70	Canada	460	570	740
71-75	Indonesia	500	550	690

## READING LEVELS

Beginning of the year  
second grade to  
mid-year third grade



READING  
Around the  
WORLD

### Reading Levels Conversion Chart

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

Grade level	Lexile	Fountas & Pinnell	DRA
1st	80-450	I	16
1 <sup>st</sup> - 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



# 2 QUESTION TYPES

## Traditions in RUSSIA



### Grandfather Frost

Christmas in Russia is two weeks later than in most places. In Russia, New Year's comes before Christmas. Russian families have a New Year's tree, not a Christmas tree. On New Year's Eve, Ded Moroz, or Grandfather Frost, brings gifts. He puts them under the New Year's tree. He travels with the Snow Maiden. He wears a long coat and has a magic staff. His sled is pulled by three horses.



Grandfather Frost

### Christmas Markets

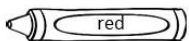
Russia has many Christmas markets. They have colorful rides. People can get holiday gifts there. The most famous Christmas market is in Moscow.



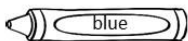
January 6th is Christmas Eve in Russia. Families have a simple meal. The Christmas Day meal is very different. Families have a big meal of pork or goose. They also have meat pies and honey cake for dessert.

Christmas market in Moscow, Russia

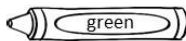
Underline the answers in the text.



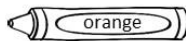
What holiday comes before Christmas in Russia?



Who brings gifts to put under the tree?



Where is the most famous Christmas market in Russia?



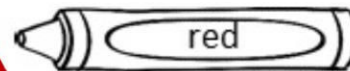
When is Christmas Eve in Russia?

## TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

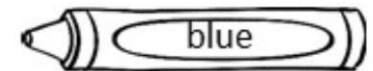


goose  
honey  
Christmas market

Underline the answers in the text.



What holiday comes before Christmas in Russia?



Who brings gifts to put under the tree?

## STUDENTS COLOR CODE TEXT EVIDENCE



# 2 QUESTION TYPES

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ADDRESS:

- Main idea
- Nonfiction text features
- Author's purpose
- Context clues
- Multiple meaning words
- Supporting details
- Compare & contrast

**Traditions in MEXICO**

Reread the passage. Number the paragraphs. Circle any words you do not know. Answer the questions using

1. What is the first paragraph most \_\_\_\_\_
2. What text feature helps you understand what procession means? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did the author write this text?
  - a. to entertain
  - b. to inform
4. After reading the text, how do the captions help you understand the pictures? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Traditions in INDIA**

Reread the passage. Number the paragraphs. Circle any words you do not know. Answer the questions using the text.

1. What is the main idea of this text? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the second paragraph mostly about? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did the author use bolded words in this text? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How do the captions help you understand the pictures? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Teacher Notes

There are 14 passage topics, each with 3 levels, giving you 42 leveled passages in all. These passages provide ready-to-use comprehension and close reading practice for your students.

I have left the pictures in each passage in color to retain their clarity when you print or copy in black and white.

**Easily differentiate:** Each passage comes in 3 different reading levels ranging from beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to mid-year 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This gives you the option to use the passages both whole group and in your small reading groups.

**Reading level ranges:** The reading levels range from beginning of the year 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to mid-year 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and are comparable to the following leveling systems:

Lexile: 380-720

Fountas & Pinnell: J-O

DRA: 18-30

**Comprehension questions:** The text contains questions at the bottom of each passage as well as the 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 you have students using a different reading level passage.

**Address RI standards:** Each passage includes a title, headings, pictures, and captions. Several of the passages also include bolded text and italics to focus on key vocabulary.

**Close reading procedure:** The passages are intended to be used for at least two readings.

**INCLUDED PROCEDURES MAKE PLANNING EASY!**

## OVERVIEW & STANDARDS ALIGNMENT



### Standards Alignment

#### Second Grade Common Core State Standards

##### Key Ideas and Details:

RI.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

RI.2.2 Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

##### Craft and Structure:

RI.2.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 2 topic or subject area*.

RI.2.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

RI.2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

##### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

RI.2.7 Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

##### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:

RI.2.10 By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, 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.

#### Third Grade Common Core State Standards

RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RI.3.2 Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

##### Craft and Structure:

RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 3 topic or subject area*.

RI.3.5 Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.

##### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:

RI.3.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

#### Second Grade TEKS

2.3A Determine the meaning and pronunciation of unknown words.

2.3B Use context within a sentence to determine meaning of unknown words.

2.6G Evaluate details read to determine key ideas

2.7C Use text evidence to support an appropriate response

2.9Dii Recognize characteristics and structures of informational text including features and graphics to locate and gain information.

2.10A Discuss the author's purpose for writing a text

#### Third Grade TEKS

3.3B Use context within and beyond a sentence to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and multiple meaning words.

3.6G Evaluate details read to determine key ideas

3.7C Use text evidence to support an appropriate response

3.9D Recognize characteristics and structures of informational text

3.9Di Recognize the central idea with supporting evidence

3.9Dii Recognize nonfiction text features



# TEACHER NOTES

Traditions in GERMANY

READING Around the WORLD

Nutcrackers at a Christmas market in Germany

Advent wreath

Christmas Markets

Every winter, Christmas markets are open in towns in Germany. There is a big Christmas pyramid in the center of the market. These look like windmills. The windmills have paddles on top of them. People can buy gingerbread, candy apples, and pretzels. Nutcrackers can also be found there. They come in many shapes and sizes.

People in Germany use advent wreaths during December. They are decorated with pinecones and berries. They have four big candles. Each week a candle is lit to count down the time until Christmas.

Santa's Post Office

Did you know there is a special Christmas post office in Germany? Letters to Santa are sent here so Santa can reply. Families will sometimes read the letters from Santa during Christmas dinner. Families in Germany eat duck, goose, or rabbit for Christmas dinner. This meat may also have an apple and sausage filling. A favorite dessert is **stollen**. Stollen is a sweet bread made with nuts and fruits.

Underline the answers in the text.

red blue green orange

What can you see in the middle of a Christmas market?

Where do letters to Santa go in Germany?

Why do people light candles on an advent wreath?

What is served for dessert in Germany?

## 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.







**HOLIDAYS**  
Around the **WORLD**

**LEVELED READING PASSAGES**

Ready-to-use  
**COMPREHENSION**  
& **CLOSE READING**  
practice for  
your students

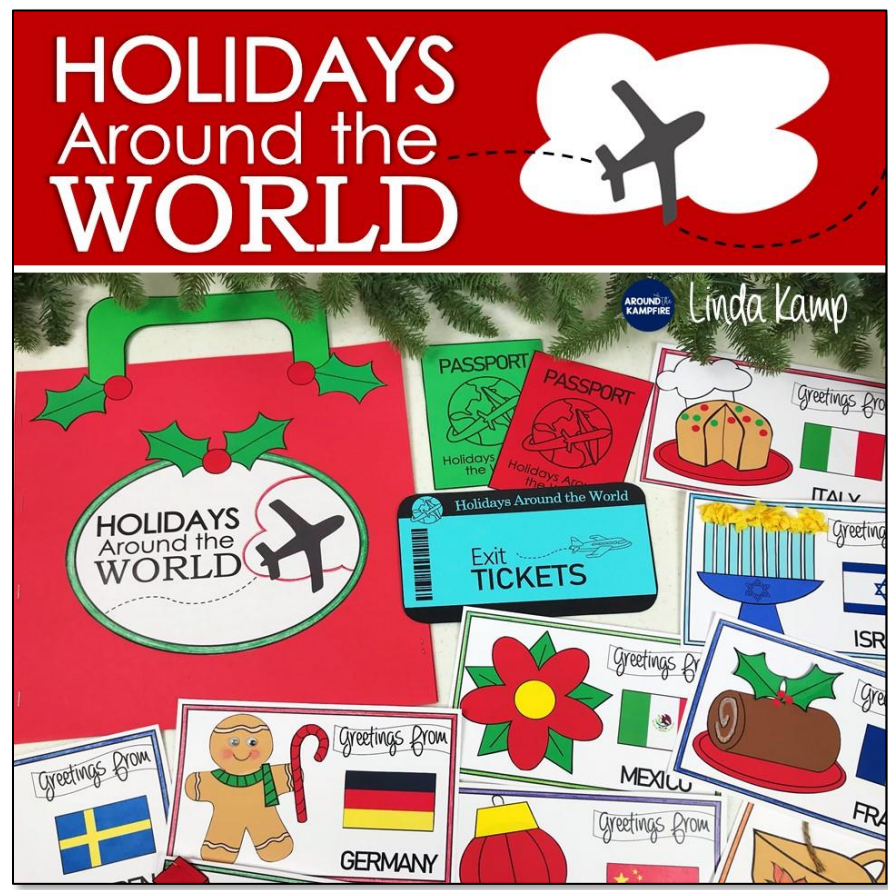




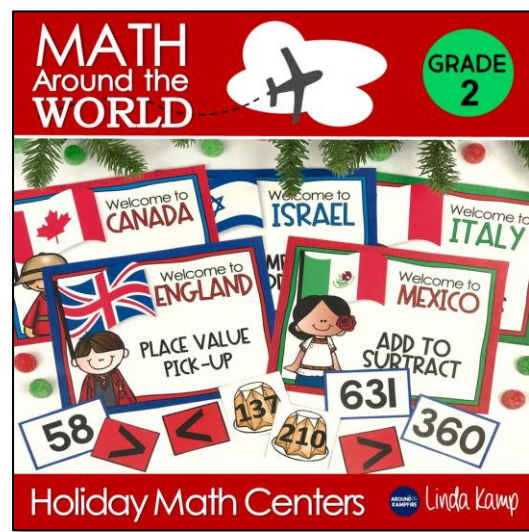
# RELATED RESOURCES

You might also like these

## HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD resources

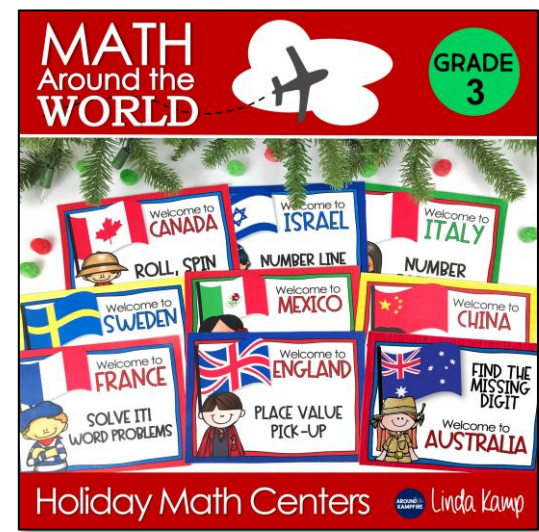


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