

differentiated passages & activities



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



Common Core Kingdom, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	190L-530L
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



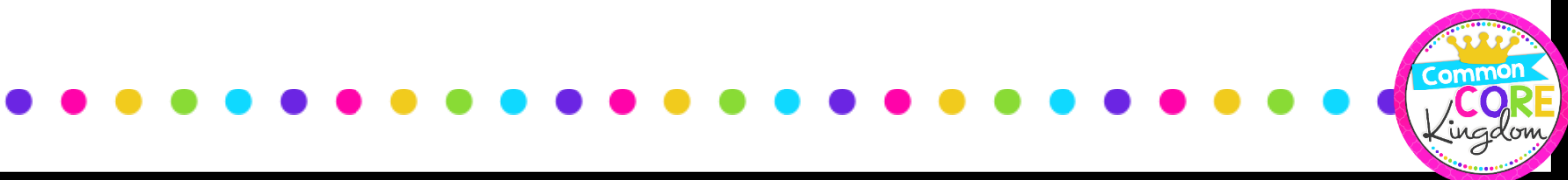
Christmas

1st – 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes a nonfiction guided reading passage on three differentiated levels. The passages fall across the 1st – 5th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 1st – 5th grade is 190L – 1010L).

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 - The Meaning of Christmas (540L)
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Prereading

This photograph is a nativity scene at a church in Queretaro, Mexico taken around Christmas time. What do you notice in this photograph? Is there anything familiar to you? Write your response in red. After you have completed the readings, go back and add to your response in green, based on what you read.



The Meaning of Christmas

Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth. It is on December 25th. The word Christmas came from "Christ's mass". Christmas has religious meaning. Today, it is also a cultural celebration. People around the world celebrate Christmas. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many countries. Christmas is from the Christian religion. Some traditions are Christian. Some people who are not Christian also celebrate.



A painting of Jesus' birth.

The Christmas story began when Mary and Joseph were traveling to Bethlehem. They arrived at an inn. The inn had no room for them. They were given shelter in the stable. Jesus was born in the stable. Mary and Joseph put him in a manger. The angels said Jesus was a savior. The angels spread the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. The shepherds followed the Star of Bethlehem. They brought gifts to Jesus. No one knows the date of Jesus' birth. The Christian Church chose December 25th.

Christmas traditions are different in many countries. Some traditions are religious. Some traditions are secular. Religious traditions include Christmas church services. They are held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Many churches have a nativity play. This is a play of Jesus' birth. One secular tradition is decorations. Decorations include lights, wreaths, and Christmas trees. People send out Christmas cards. Christmas music and caroling are common. People give gifts. Santa Claus visits children around the world. He is known by different names in different countries.

Christmas celebrations are different around the world. In countries with many Christians, more people go to church.

Christmas in Mexico

In Mexico, children perform the “Posada”. Posada is Spanish for inn. Children carry candles and nativity figures. They parade through the streets. They stop at houses to sing a song. They ask for a room in the house. Each house tells them there is no room. Finally, they reach the last home. They are welcomed in. Everyone prays. They enjoy food and games.



The poinsettia, or Flor de Nochebuena, is an important Christmas symbol in Mexico.



Advent calendars have pockets or flaps that are opened each day leading up to Christmas.

Christmas in Denmark

In Denmark, Advent calendars are popular. Children get extra presents. Many go to church on Christmas Eve. Afterwards, they go on a walk in the park to give animals food. Then, they return home for their Christmas meal. On Christmas morning, presents are brought by Julemanden. Julemanden means “Christmas Man”.



Christmas in Belgium

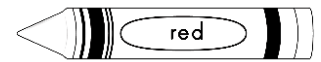
In Belgium, Sinterklaas visits children. He comes on December 5th. Sinterklaas has an assistant named Zwarte Piet. Zwarte Piet climbs down the chimney. He puts presents for children in their shoes. Children leave treats for Sinterklaas. Christmas day is for family and religion.

The meaning of Christmas is different for everyone. For some, this time of year is to remember Jesus. For others, Christmas is a time to celebrate family.

Christmas

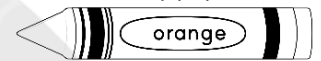
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What is the religious meaning of Christmas?



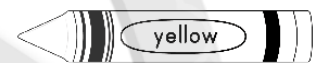
- a. Jesus' birth
- b. A cultural celebration
- c. Reenacting the nativity
- d. People can celebrate in countries around the world.

2. Which of the following is an example of a secular Christmas tradition? (Choose all that apply.)



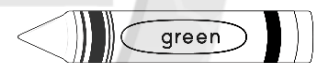
- a. Santa Claus
- b. The nativity play
- c. Singing Christmas carols
- d. Christmas Eve church service

3. What is an Advent calendar?



- a. A calendar that is used only for decoration.
- b. A calendar that shows when Jesus was really born.
- c. A calendar that helps people remember the true meaning of Christmas.
- d. A calendar with pockets or flaps that are opened each day leading up to Christmas.

4. With which of the following statements would the author of this article likely agree? (Choose all that apply.)



- a. Christmas is a time to remember Jesus.
- b. Christmas has a different meaning for different people.
- c. There is no right or wrong way to celebrate Christmas.
- d. Christmas is better in Denmark because people get more presents.

5. Explain how a person who is of the Christian religion may celebrate differently than a person who sees Christmas as a cultural celebration. Use at least two details from the text to support your answer.



Foldable Activity Instructions

1. Cut out the page as shown.
The page should be cut along the border and down the middle vertically. The horizontal line should be cut only until the edge.
2. Paste the edge of the two flaps on a piece of paper or in student journals.
3. Students write the meaning of each symbol underneath the flaps.

1.



2.

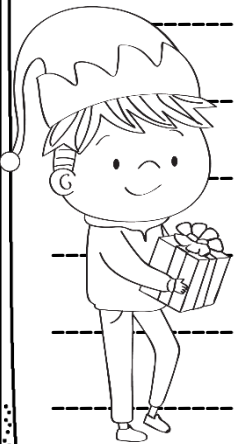
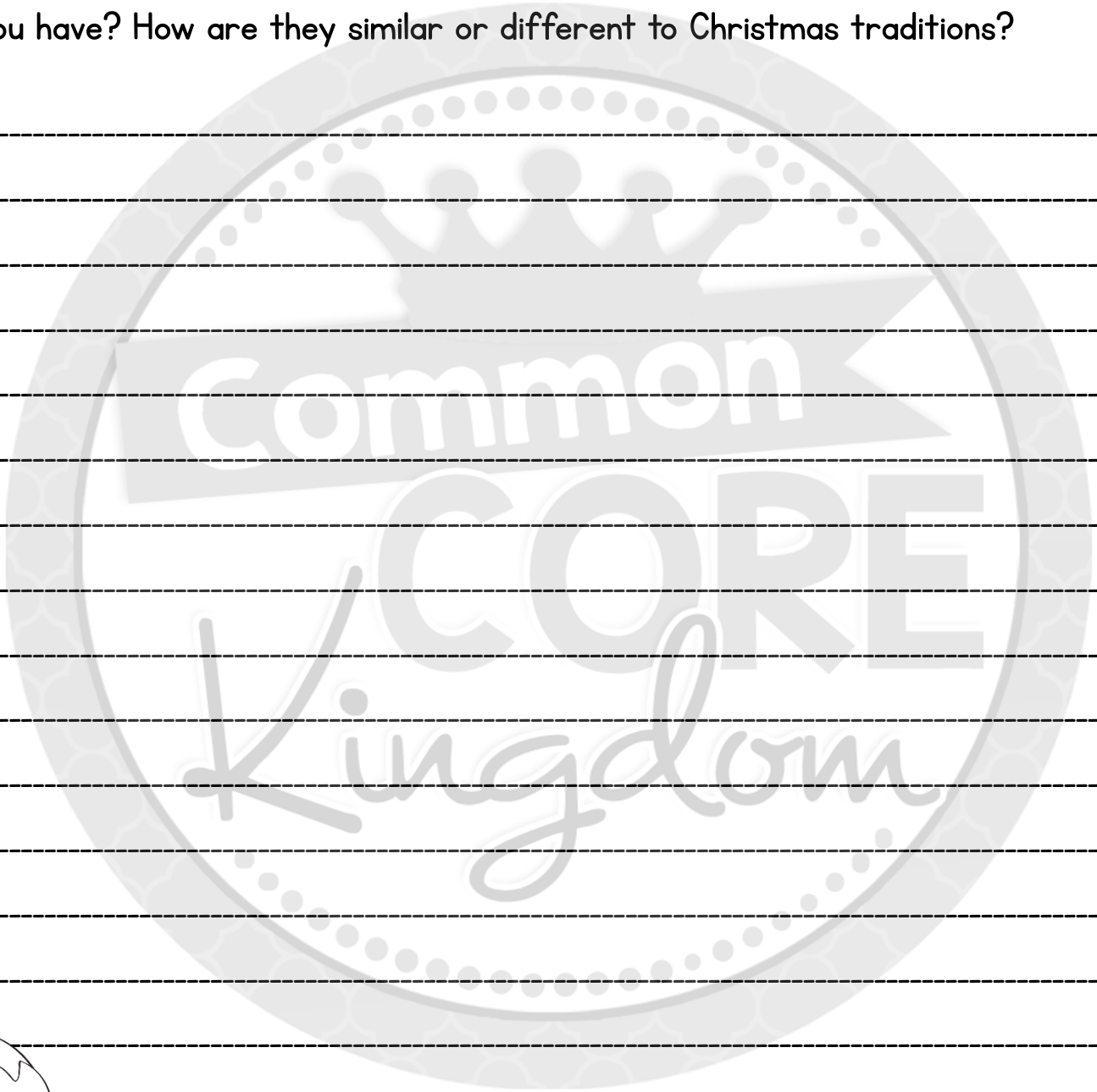
3.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Celebrating Christmas

Compare and contrast how you celebrate a holiday to how other celebrate Christmas. What is the history behind the holiday you celebrate? What traditions do you have? How are they similar or different to Christmas traditions?



Writing Craft Instructions

1. Have students complete one of the writing prompts.
2. Print out the toppers. Have students color their topper.
3. Tape or glue the topper to the prompt sheet.







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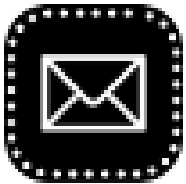
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