

2nd Grade Informational Text Reading Comprehension Series

From the Creators of:

MR. NUSSBAUM
LEARNING + FUN

Introduction:

This packet contains 14 informational text reading comprehension passages and question sets. These are perfect for second students learning to read for understanding, details, sequence, re-reading, vocabulary, meaning, and main idea. For specific grade-level equivalencies for each passage, view the answer sheet. Grade level equivalencies were determined using the Lexile “Analyzer” tool. Please note that grade level equivalencies are merely approximations and as such, and may vary by individual student.



The Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle is a majestic bird. The adult bird has a brown body, brown wings, white head, and large, hooked yellow bill. Younger birds appear all brown.

Bald Eagles almost always live near water because their main food source is fish. Sometimes, however, Bald Eagles will eat dead animals (carrion). They will even steal food from other birds such as ospreys and gulls! It was for this reason that the famous Patriot Benjamin Franklin preferred the Wild Turkey as America's National symbol. Nevertheless, the Bald Eagle remains America's symbol.

1.) Benjamin Franklin thought....

- A.) the bald eagle was a fine choice for America's symbol.
- B.) the wild turkey was a better choice as America's symbol than the Bald Eagle.
- C. the bald eagle was a better choice as America's symbol than the wild turkey.
- D.) Neither the bald eagle nor the wild turkey were good choices as America's symbol.

2.) How are younger bald eagles different from adult bald eagles?

- A.) They have lighter bodies.
- B.) They have black bills.
- C.) They are totally brown.
- D.) They are smaller.

3.) What color is the bald eagle's bill?

- A.) Black.
- B.) Brown.
- C.) Yellow.
- D.) White.

4.) The author seemed surprised that...

- A.) bald eagles have white heads.
- B.) bald eagles eat fish.
- C.) the bald eagle is America's symbol.
- D.) bald eagles steal food from other birds.

5.) Why do Bald Eagles usually live near water?

- A.) They eat fish.
- B.) To protect the nest from predators.
- C.) Bald Eagles like to swim.
- D.) Bald Eagles like to steal food.



What is a Bank?

Banks are places where people can keep their money. Most people use banks to save money in their savings accounts and to pay money from their checking accounts. Today, when a person earns money from their job, their paycheck is often electronically deposited (put) into their savings or checking account. Then, he or she can pay their bills by writing checks from their checking accounts or pay online where their bills are electronically connected to their bank accounts.

Banks also give loans to people. People may use the bank's money to buy new houses, cars, or to start businesses among other reasons. The bank makes money from lending by charging interest. In other words, people have to pay back more than they borrowed. This amount depends on how risky the bank thinks the borrower is and how fast the loan is paid back among other things.

1.) How much "interest" do borrowers have to pay?

- A.) Most borrowers don't have to pay interest.
- B.) Everyone pays the same amount of interest.
- C. The story doesn't tell.
- D.) It depends on a lot of things.

2.) What do people do with the bank's money?

- A.) Buy houses
- B.) Buy Cars
- C.) Start Businesses
- D.) All of the above

3.) How do banks make money?

- A.) By saving customer deposits.
- B.) Charging interest to those they lend to.
- C.) By having a lot of accounts.
- D.) Electronically.

4.) How does "interest" work?

- A.) Banks pay people more money than they borrowed.
- B.) Banks require people to pay back money they borrowed very quickly.
- C.) Banks require people to pay back the same amount of money they borrowed.
- D.) Banks require people to pay back more money than they borrowed.

5.) What do banks NOT do?

- A.) Help people get jobs.
- B.) Provide a place where people can pay their bills from.
- C.) Provide a place where people can save their money.
- D.) Lend money to people.



Blue Whale

The blue whale is the largest living animal to have ever lived on the planet Earth. Blue Whales are way larger than the largest dinosaur that ever lived. The largest Blue Whales can grow as long as 100 feet, which is longer than three school buses put together!

Even though blue whales are huge, they eat tiny creatures known as krill. Krill are tiny shrimp-like animals. The whale simply opens its mouth, fills it with krill and salt water, and filters the water out of plates in its mouth called baleen. The blue whale may eat over 8,000 pounds of krill in a single day!

1.) What happens to the salt water that the Blue Whale gulps?

- A. It gets turned to fresh water.
- B. It swallows the water.
- C. It filters it out.
- D. The passage doesn't say.

2.) The Blue Whale eats....

- A. sharks.
- B. big fish.
- C. humans.
- D. small creatures called krill.

3.) What is NOT true?

- A. The Blue Whale is larger than the largest dinosaur.
- B. The Blue Whale can eat 8,000 pounds of krill per day.
- C. The Blue Whale is smaller than some elephants.
- D. The Blue Whale can grow longer than three school buses.

4.) A Blue Whale can grow as long as _____ feet.

5.) A Blue Whale....

- A. is large, but smaller than some dinosaurs.
- B. is large, but smaller than a school bus.
- C. is larger than any animal that has ever lived on earth.
- D. uses its sharp teeth to chew up large fish.



The Cardinal

The cardinal is a beautiful bird found in North America. It is an active, medium-sized bird that is often found in backyards, parks, and even cities. The male is bright red with a black mask and small crest. The female is light brown with red feathers on her crest and wings. Both the male and female have thick bills for cracking seeds! Cardinals are members of the finch family. Males and females mate for life and often stay in the same area year-round.

Did you know that the cardinal is the official bird of seven different states? Two professional sports teams are called the "cardinals," and several college sports teams are called the "cardinals."

1.) Which is not true?

- A.) Cardinals mate for life.
- B.) Cardinals can be found in backyards.
- C.) Some college sports teams are named the "cardinals."
- D.) Male and female cardinals look the same.

2.) Which adjective is NOT used by the author in describing the cardinal?

- A.) Bright
- B.) Beautiful
- C.) Active
- D.) Happy

3.) How does the passage tell you that cardinals eat seeds?

- A.) By describing their colors
- B.) By describing where they live
- C.) By describing the shape of their bills
- D.) By describing their feathers

4.) How does the author start the second paragraph?

- A.) With a statement
- B.) With a question
- C.) With a quotation
- D.) With an opinion

5.) How are male and female cardinals alike?

- A.) They are both bright red
- B.) They are both light brown
- C.) They have thick bills
- D.) They are both largeb sized birds

Connecticut

Connecticut is located in the part of the United States known as New England. Connecticut is one of the nation's smallest states. It touches the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. Even though it is small, it has a population of over three and a half million people! This means it has more people than much larger states such as Alaska and Montana.

The name "Connecticut" is thought to have come from the Algonquian word for "long river." It became America's fifth state in 1788. It is known as the Constitution State because its state constitution, or set of laws is thought to be the oldest in American history.

1. Connecticut...

- A. is one of America's largest states.
- B. is larger than Montana.
- C. has five million people.
- D. touches Rhode Island.

2. Why is Connecticut known as the Constitution State?

- A. Because it has a Constitution
- B. Because it is one of the oldest states
- C. Because it has the oldest state constitution
- D. Because it has a set of laws

3. "Long river" is the answer to what question?

- A. What does the word Connecticut mean?
- B. What is the longest river in Connecticut?
- C. Who are the Algonquians?
- D. What is the oldest river?

4. The second paragraph tells...

- A. about the Algonquians
- B. about some of Connecticut's history
- C. about 1788
- D. about the size of Connecticut

Dunkin Donuts Reading Comprehension Name _____

William Rosenberg was one of four children growing up in Boston, Massachusetts. His father was a grocery store owner. Because of the family's money problems, William left school in the eighth grade to help his father at his store. In his teenage years, he worked many different jobs and got a lot of experience in the food industry. When he started his own food truck service, he was surprised that about half of his sales came from coffee and donuts. William had a plan!

In 1948, William opened a coffee and donut shop which he named "Open Kettle" in Quincy, Massachusetts. A coffee was ten cents and a donut was five cents. At the time, that was very expensive, but his customers loved his products and the store was a big success. William, however, was unhappy with the name "Open Kettle" and decided to make a change. He noticed that customers often dunked their donuts into their coffee. Thus, the name "Dunkin Donuts" was born.

1. Why did William leave school in eighth grade?

- A. To start a donut shop
- B. He didn't like school
- C. To help his father
- D. To make a plan

2. What observation did William make when he started his own food truck service?

- A. He noticed that people dunked donuts in their coffee
- B. He noticed there were no coffee shops
- C. He noticed half of sales came from coffee and donuts
- D. He noticed only kids liked donuts

3. The coffee and donuts at Open Kettle was...

- A. famous.
- B. expensive.
- C. interesting.
- D. changing.

4. What is NOT TRUE about Open Kettle?

- A. It went out of business
- B. It became Dunkin Donuts
- C. It opened in 1948
- D. It opened in Quincy, Massachusetts



The Color Green

Green is a beautiful color! In nature, the grass that you walk on is green and the leaves that you see on trees are usually green. Most of the plants that you see are green too! Frogs are green and many grasshoppers are green too. Turtles are different shades of green.

Did you know that you can make green paint by mixing blue and yellow? Because you can make green by mixing two primary colors, it is called a secondary color. Green is also the name used to describe the movement to make products that do not harm the Earth. Green products are often those made from recycled materials or those that are safe to throw out in the trash.

1.) According to the passage, which is green?

- A.) A frog.
- B.) A bat.
- C.) A primary color.
- D.) A mushroom.

2.) Turtles are...

- A.) not found in nature.
- B.) different shades of green.
- C.) green products.
- D.) not green.

3.) What is a green product?

- A.) One that is mixed together.
- B.) One that is fun.
- C.) One that is made from grass.
- D.) One that is safe for Earth.

4.) Which of the following might be an example of a green product?

- A.) A soft pillow.
- B.) A plastic bottle that can be recycled.
- C.) A frog.
- D.) A big truck.

5.) Green is...

- A.) A primary color.
- B.) A type of kite.
- C.) A secondary color.
- D.) A kind of plant.

Jupiter

Jupiter is the 5th planet from the sun. It is the largest planet in the solar system. It is so large that all of the other planets combined could fit inside Jupiter.

Jupiter is one of the “Gas Giants.” This means you could not stand on Jupiter because it has no surface. Jupiter is known for its Great Red Spot. This is an area of Jupiter with raging storms way more powerful than any on Earth. Scientists don’t know why it is red. They do know that winds inside the spot blow twice as fast as any racecar on Earth can drive.

1. What is true about Jupiter?

- A. It is the 5th largest planet in the solar system
- B. It has a rocky surface
- C. It is larger than all of the other planets combined
- D. You could stand on Jupiter

2. Which is a comparison used in the story?

- A. Jupiter is compared to the Gas Giants
- B. The winds speed in the Great Red Spot is compared to speeds of a racecar
- C. Jupiter’s size is compared to the size of the sun.
- D. Jupiter’s color is compared to the color of the Great Red Spot

3. “Powerful storms” is the answer to what question?

- A. What is inside the Great Red Spot?
- B. What is inside Jupiter?
- C. What is inside the Gas Giants?
- D. How strong are storms on Earth?

4. What is a Gas Giant?

- A. A large planet with a surface
- B. A large planet without a surface
- C. A large planet with a Great Red Spot
- D. A large planet with strong winds

Komodo Dragon

Did you know that dragons really do exist? These dragons, however, cannot fly, and don't breathe fire. These dragons are called komodo dragons. Komodo dragons live on a few small islands in Indonesia, which is in Asia.

Komodo dragons are huge reptiles that can grow to ten feet long and weigh 350 pounds. Their tails make up half of the lengths of their bodies. These interesting animals smell with their tongues.

Komodo dragons are carnivores. They bite prey with deadly saliva and then wait for the animal to die. This may take several days. Komodo dragons, however, are very patient. They only eat a few times per month!

1. Which is NOT true about the komodo dragon?

- A. They are carnivores
- B. They don't eat very often
- C. They live throughout Asia
- D. They use their tongues to smell.

2. What does the word "patient" mean in the following sentence?

Komodo dragons, however, are very patient. They only eat a few times per month!

- A. They are often sick
- B. They can wait along time
- C. Smart
- D. Fast

3. Why does the author use an exclamation mark after the least sentence?

- A. Because the final fact is very interesting
- B. It's the end of the paragraph
- C. To make sure the reader understands the sentence
- D. To tell the reader how the komodo dragon hunts

4. What question is not answered?

- A. How long is a komodo dragon?
- B. Is the komodo dragon endangered?
- C. What country does the komodo dragon live in?
- D. Do dragons exist?

Lobsters are a kind of ocean creature called crustaceans. Crabs and shrimp are crustaceans too. Lobsters, and most other crustaceans, are found throughout the world's oceans, often under rocks or in cracks on the sea floor.

Lobsters have five pairs of legs, three of which are claws. The front claws, sometimes called pincers, are larger than the others. Scientists believe lobsters can live up to 70 years!

People love to eat lobsters! The state of Maine is famous for the lobsters found along its Atlantic coast. Here, lobsters are often served with melted butter, corn on the cob, and French fries. Did you know that lobsters only turn red after they are cooked? In the wild they can be grayish, yellow, green, blue or multi-colored.

1. What question is answered in the first paragraph?

- A. Where are lobsters found?
- B. What do people eat with lobsters?
- C. What color are lobsters in the wild?
- D. How long can a lobster live?

2. What are pincers?

- A. Small claws toward the back of the lobster
- B. Large claws at the front of the lobster
- C. Another name for the lobster's shell
- D. The passage doesn't say

3. Which is not true about lobsters?

- A. They're related to shrimp
- B. They're found on the ocean floor
- C. They are red in the wild
- D. They can live to be 70 years old

4. Lobsters...

- A. aren't usually eaten by people.
- B. have three pairs of claws.
- C. live only in the Atlantic Ocean.
- D. are related to fish and sharks.

The common loon is the state bird of Minnesota. It lives on large lakes and wetlands in northern North America in the summer and on lakes, rivers, and coastlines in the winter. The common loon is glossy, dark-green with lots of white patterns on its back. It is white underneath and has a long, sharp bill. It has bright red eyes. In the winter, loons lose their summer plumage and become a drab brown above and white below. Although it looks like a duck, the loon is totally unrelated to ducks. It is much larger than most ducks and its legs are placed in the back of its body, which makes walking on land a very difficult and awkward task.

Loons are named for their eerie calls, which often echo across the northern lakes at night or early in the morning. Sometimes, several loons call at once producing a chorus of yodels. The common loon is sometimes called the great northern diver because it can dive as deep as 200 feet in search of fish.

- 1. Since Minnesota's state bird is the common loon, what is probably true about Minnesota?**
 - A. It has a lot of lakes and wetlands
 - B. It has a lot of deserts
 - C. It has a lot of land
 - D. It has a lot of mountains

- 2. The common loon...**
 - A. is closely related to ducks.
 - B. looks nothing like ducks.
 - C. is unrelated to ducks.
 - D. has legs like a duck.

3. Which of the following would be unlikely?

- A. A common loon diving 150 feet under the surface of a lake
- B. A common loon swimming in a small pond
- C. A common loon floating in the ocean during the winter
- D. A common loon that looks brownish in the winter

4. Read the descriptions below. Which describes the common loon?

- A. The common loon is a glossy-green above and white below with lots of white patterns. It has a short, but sharp bill, and its legs are placed far back on its body
- B. The common loon is a glossy-green above and white below with lots of white patterns. It has a long, sharp bill, bright white eyes, and legs placed far back on its body
- C. The common loon is brown above and white below in the winter. It has a long, sharp bill and legs placed far back on its body
- D. The common loon is white above and brown below in the winter. It has a long, sharp bill and legs placed far back on its body

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions

Mars, sometimes called the red planet, is the fourth planet from the sun. Its surface is made up of iron, which is why it looks red. Mars is only about half of the size of Earth and is too cold for humans to live on, although in some parts of Mars, it can be warm during the day. Like Earth, Mars has been found to have ice at its north and south poles. Unlike Earth, Mars has not one, but two moons! Its moons are named Phobos and Deimos. Mars is also the home of Olympus Mons, the highest mountain in the solar system. It is three times higher than the highest mountain on Earth.

1. How are Earth and Mars alike?

- A. They both have two moons
- B. They are the same size
- C. They have ice at their poles
- D. They both have the highest mountain in the solar system

2. Mars is

- A. too warm for humans to live on.
- B. larger than Earth.
- C. the home of the highest mountain on Earth.
- D. smaller than Earth.

3. What is true about Olympus Mons?

- A. It is the highest mountain on Earth
- B. It is the lowest mountain on Mars
- C. It is much higher than the highest mountain on Earth
- D. It is only a little higher than the highest mountain on Earth

4. Why is Mars red?

- A. Because it is far from the sun
- B. Because of the iron on its surface
- C. Because of its two moons
- D. Because it has ice at its poles



Sand Dollars

A sand dollar is a type of sea urchin. Many are flat, but others that are more rounded are called sea biscuits. Sand dollars are related to starfish and sea cucumbers. Sand dollars are often found together on the ocean floor or seabed. They eat small sea creatures, algae, and the remains of animals that reach the ocean floor. Sand dollars have spines, and thus have few natural predators.

In the ocean, sand dollars can be a variety of colors including brown, green, blue, and purple. People usually see them when they wash up on the sand. By this time, they are often broken and bleached white by the sun. The sand dollar got its name for its resemblance to a silver dollar when found on the sand.

1.) What does the author tell you about sea cucumbers?

- a.) They're rounded sand dollars.
- b.) They eat sand dollars.
- c.) They can be brown, green, blue, or purple.
- d.) They are related to sand dollars.

2.) Which is NOT true about the sand dollar?

- a.) They're related to sea cucumbers.
- b.) They have a lot of predators.
- c.) They are often found together.
- d.) They eat algae.

3.) Which of the following does NOT belong?

- a.) sea biscuit
- b.) sea horse
- c.) sea cucumber
- d.) starfish

4.) Which of the following is true about the shape of a sand dollar?

- a.) All are flat.
- b.) None are round.
- c.) Some are flat and some are round.
- d.) None are flat.

5.) Why do sand dollars look white when they are found on the beach?

- a.) They are cold.
- b.) They've been bleached by the sun.
- c.) They look like silver dollars.
- d.) They are trying to hide.



The United States

The United States is a large country. It is the third largest in the whole world! It is located in a continent called North America. Parts of the United States touch three different oceans. The United States has tall mountains, wide plains, deserts, hills, rivers, lakes, volcanoes, and even rainforests! People from all over the world have come to live in the United States.

There are 50 states in the United States. The newest states, Alaska and Hawaii, are not connected to the other states. Alaska is the largest state and Hawaii is a chain of islands in the Pacific Ocean.

1.) The United States is the _____ country in the world.

- A.) smallest
- B.) third largest
- C.) second largest
- D.) largest

2.) Parts of the United States touch _____ different oceans.

- A.) three
- B.) two
- C.) four
- D.) five

3.) Alaska is _____ and Hawaii is _____.

- A.) connected to other states; a chain of islands
- B.) a chain of islands; the largest state
- C.) the largest state; a chain of islands
- D.) not connected to other states; the largest state

4.) The United States does not have _____.

- A.) 50 states
- B.) mountains
- C.) volcanoes
- D.) continents

5.) What continent is the United States a part of?

Utah Reading Comprehension for Grades 1-3

Utah is a state in the western part of America. It is part of the “four corners” of America, which also includes Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Here, you can step in all four states at once! Utah touches the states of Nevada and Idaho as well. One of Utah’s most famous places is called the Great Salt Lake. The Great Salt Lake is much saltier than the ocean. Utah’s capital city, Salt Lake City, is located on the shores of the lake. Salt Lake City is the largest city in Utah and even has its own professional basketball team, the Utah Jazz. Utah is also well known for its great ski resorts and its five beautiful national parks.

1. What is NOT true about Utah?

- A. It is part of the “four corners”
- B. It touches Nevada
- C. It has a professional basketball team
- D. Utah is in the eastern part of America

2. Which of the states below is not in the “four corners?”

- A. Idaho
- B. Utah
- C. Colorado
- D. Arizona

3. Which of the following people would probably like to visit Utah?

- A. Doctor
- B. Skier
- C. Tennis player
- D. Bus Driver

4. The Great Salt Lake is...

- A. about as salty as the ocean.
- B. saltier than the ocean.
- C. less salty than the ocean.
- D. not really in Utah.

	Apx. Grade Level	Word Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Connecticut 123	2.25	125	D	C	A	B						
Komodo Dragon Grades 123	2.25	109	C	B	A	B						
The United States (123)	2.5	101	B	A	C	D	North America					
Blue Whale (123)	2.5	103	C	D	C	100	C					
Sand Dollars	2.5	128	D	B	B	C	B					
Common Loon 234	2.75	132	A	C	B	C						
Dunkin' Donuts (123)	2.75	150	C	C	B	A						
Jupiter 123	2.75	102	C	B	A	B						
Lobsters	2.75	125	A	B	C	B						
Mars 123	2.75	115	C	D	C	B						
Utah 123	2.75	119	D	A	B	B						
Bald Eagle (123)	2.75	90	B	C	C	D	A					
Banks (123)	2.75	146	D	D	B	D	A					
The Color Green (123)	2.75	120	A	B	D	B	C					
Cardinal (123)	2.75	114	D	D	C	B	C					