

# AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

## task cards

2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE

### 25 Author's Purpose

In Antarctica, winter is in June. The sun sets and does not rise for months. Cold winds blow across the icy surface, and temperatures dip far below freezing. It's where the coldest temperature on Earth was recorded. Scientists could not use a thermometer because it was much too cold out. They used a satellite instead. It measured minus 144°F. That's about as cold as it can get on Earth. It's almost as cold as another planet.

What is the author's purpose in this text?

- a Telling a story about scientists in a cold place
- b Explaining how to measure temperature without a thermometer
- c Describing how cold Antarctica is
- d Answering a question about life at the South Pole



### 26 Author's Purpose

Orlando, Florida is the perfect winter getaway. The weather in Orlando is always warm. Even in winter, the temperature gets into the 70s. It never snows, and it's one of the sunniest cities in the country. There's lots to do in Orlando. It's home to more than a dozen theme parks like Walt Disney World and Universal Studios. Orlando is not far from the ocean. You can smell the salty sea air, feel the sand, and hear the crashing waves. For your next vacation, consider Orlando, Florida!

What does this text describe?

- a Why the beach is better than amusement parks
- b Places to vacation in winter
- c How to get to Orlando, Florida
- d What Orlando, Florida is like



## Author's Purpose In Nonfiction



### 27 Author's Purpose

A groundhog is a type of rodent. It is the largest member of the squirrel family. Like squirrels, groundhogs can climb trees. They can even swim. Most often, you'll see them on dry ground. When winter comes, they sleep in underground burrows. Adult groundhogs weigh about 13 pounds. They are about 2 feet long, with an 8-inch tail. Their claws are long and sharp for digging. Their long front teeth grow quickly to keep up with their summer feasting.

Which of these is not used in the text to describe groundhogs?

- a What it eats
- b What it looks like
- c How it behaves
- d Where it lives



### 28 Author's Purpose

Have you ever taken a close look at your cash? In the United States, all bills are green. They are all the same size and have a similar design. Look closely at a one-dollar bill. George Washington is shown in the center. The circle to the left is called the Federal Reserve seal. The circle to the right is the Treasury seal. The Treasury is where U.S. currency is printed. Each bill has its own serial number. It is printed below the Federal Reserve seal.

How does the author describe US currency?

- a By using sight, smell, touch, and hearing
- b By telling details about what it looks like
- c By comparing it to currency from other countries
- d By showing an illustration of a one-dollar bill



# Answer Sheet



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #	Answer	Card #	Answer
1.	B	16.	C
2.	D	17.	D
3.	A	18.	B
4.	B	19.	A
5.	C	20.	D
6.	D	21.	D
7.	A	22.	A
8.	A	23.	C
9.	B	24.	B
10.	C	25.	C
11.	C	26.	D
12.	B	27.	A
13.	B	28.	B
14.	D	29.	B
15.	A	30.	C

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## 29. Author's Purpose

The corpse flower is a huge plant that can grow to be over 10 feet tall. Its flower can be larger than an adult. It only blooms once in many years, and that's a good thing! The corpse flower has a terrible smell, which some say is like rotting meat. When a corpse flower blooms, people gather around. They put up with the smell to see this rare flower. The bloom does not last long. Once it is gone, people wait many years to see it

## 30. Author's Purpose

Old Glory. The Star-Spangled Banner. The American flag has many names, but it always stands for freedom. The flag has thirteen stripes to represent the thirteen original colonies. Its fifty stars represent the fifty states. The colors of the flag each have meaning. Red stands for strength and bravery, and white stands for purity. The blue square, called the field, stands for justice.



**28. Author's Purpose**  
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**27. Author's Purpose**  
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**26. Author's Purpose**  
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**25. Author's Purpose**  
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**What does this text describe?**

a Why the beach is so nice  
 b Places to vacation in Florida  
 c How to get to the beach  
 d What Orlando is famous for

**What is the author's purpose in this text?**

a Telling a story about scientists in a cold place  
 b Explaining how to measure temperature without a thermometer  
 c Describing how cold Antarctica is  
 d Answering a question about life at the South Pole



**Author's Purpose Challenge**

Determine the author's purpose of each text and sort them into piles to describe the author's purpose.

**Author's Purpose In Nonfiction**



**17. Author's Purpose**

Maple syrup is delicious on pancakes. But where does it come from? First, farmers "tap" maple trees by drilling a hole. Then, they insert a spout or tubing to let the sugar drip out of the tree. Once the sap is collected, it is boiled down into syrup. It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup! Boiling causes the water to evaporate, leaving behind a thick, sweet syrup. Finally, the syrup can be put into bottles and sold.

**How many steps are there in the process described here?**

a One  
 b Two  
 c Three  
 d Four



# Ways to Use Task Cards

1. **Centers**
2. **Scoot:** Pass out one card for each student. Set a timer and say, “scoot!” when the timer goes off. Students move seats to the next card. They continue to rotate until they are back at their original seat.
3. **Scavenger Hunt:** Hide cards around the room. Students search for cards and answer them.
4. **Jenga:** Number Jenga blocks. Students stack the blocks, then take turns pulling blocks. Students answer the corresponding number card.
5. **Whole class practice:** Teacher displays card on the projector. Students answer on mini white boards.
6. **Exit Tickets:** Give each student a task card at the end of the lesson. Have them answer on a sticky note.

## 1. Author's Purpose

In America, lunch might include pizza, chicken nuggets, or a hamburger. But what does a school lunch look like in other countries? In Spain, vegetable soup is a popular lunch item. It might be served with meat, salad, bread, and fruit. Students in Cuba often eat rice with chicken. They enjoy fried plantains, which are a fruit like a banana. In Japan, students serve one another lunch in the classroom. They usually eat fish, rice, vegetables, and soup.

What is the author's purpose in this text?

- Trying to convince readers to do something
- Answering a question
- Explaining the steps to do a task
- Telling an entertaining story



## 2. Author's Purpose

Christopher Columbus is famous for sailing to America. We honor him on the second Monday in October. But was he really the first European to come to America? Leif Erikson was an explorer from Iceland. He tried to sail to Greenland. His ship went off course. He landed in part of Canada. Erikson lived sometime around the year 1000. That's 400 years before Columbus! He could have been the first person to sail to America.

What question is the text trying to answer?

- Why do we celebrate Columbus day?
- Where did Leif Erikson come from?
- Who was the greatest explorer of all time?
- Was Christopher Columbus the first European in America?



## 3. Author's Purpose

Ben Franklin wanted the turkey to be the symbol of our country. Why did he think it was better than the eagle? He thought eagles had bad character. An eagle doesn't fish for itself. Instead, it steals fish from other birds. He called the bird a coward because it gets chased away by much smaller birds. In Franklin's opinion, the turkey was more noble. It was a true native of America. It was a brave bird that would chase away others.

Which of these is the best answer to the question in the text?

- The turkey is a more noble bird than the eagle.
- Turkeys are a symbol of Thanksgiving.
- The bald eagle is an endangered species.
- Ben Franklin chose the symbol of the nation.



## 4. Author's Purpose

How do animals stay warm in winter? Some animals move to warmer places. This is called migration. Birds aren't the only animals that go south for the winter. Whales swim to warmer waters. Butterflies, crabs, deer, and even insects migrate. Other animals adapt to winter by "sleeping." They hibernate. Most go into a den. Their heart rate and breathing slow down. They don't eat or move for months. Many mammals hibernate. So do some reptiles and amphibians. Even one bird and one fish hibernate.

Which of these doesn't answer the question in the text?

- Some adapt to winter by migrating or hibernating.
- Whales are similar to deer in some ways.
- Some move to a place with warmer weather.
- Some go into sleep mode.



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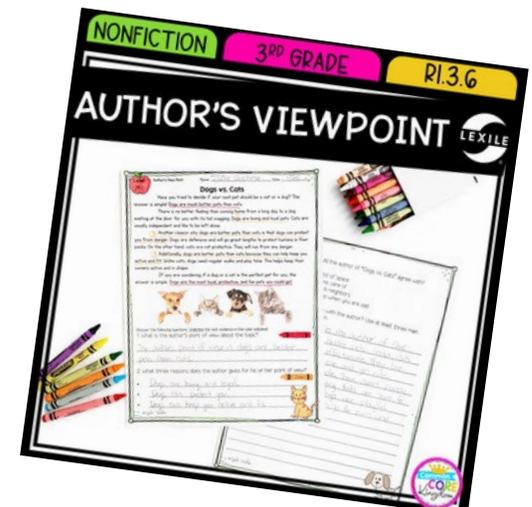
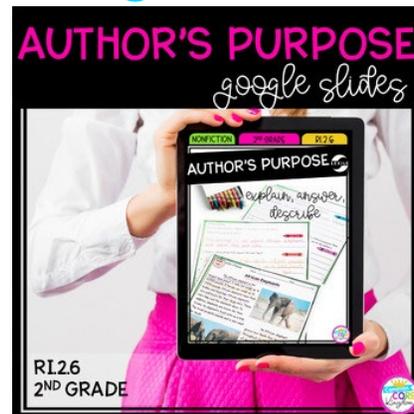


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