A young child with dark hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform jacket over a white collared shirt, is shown from the side. They are looking back over their right shoulder with a slight smile. A blue backpack with yellow straps is visible on their back. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene.

Back-to-School

Around the World

Differentiated
for grades
3-5

READING COMPREHENSION



Back-to-School Around the World

Table of Contents

*This product includes 1 passage on three differentiated levels. The passages are in the 2nd-5th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 2nd-5th grade is 450-980). Each passage is two pages long. The passages are leveled as follows:

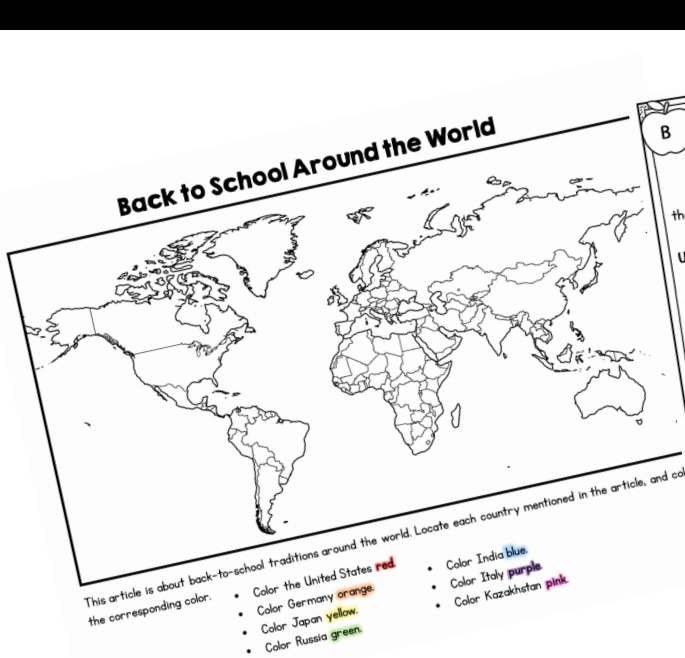
B - 400-500

M - 600-700

E - 800-900

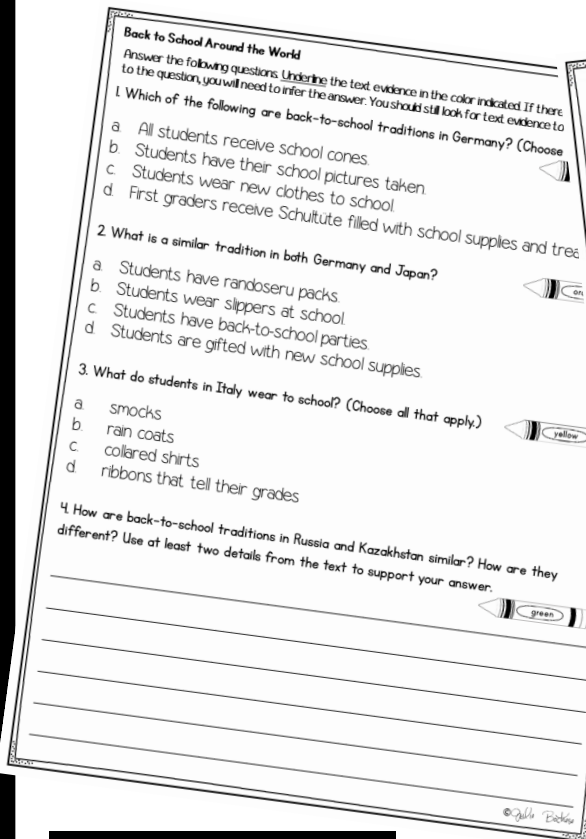
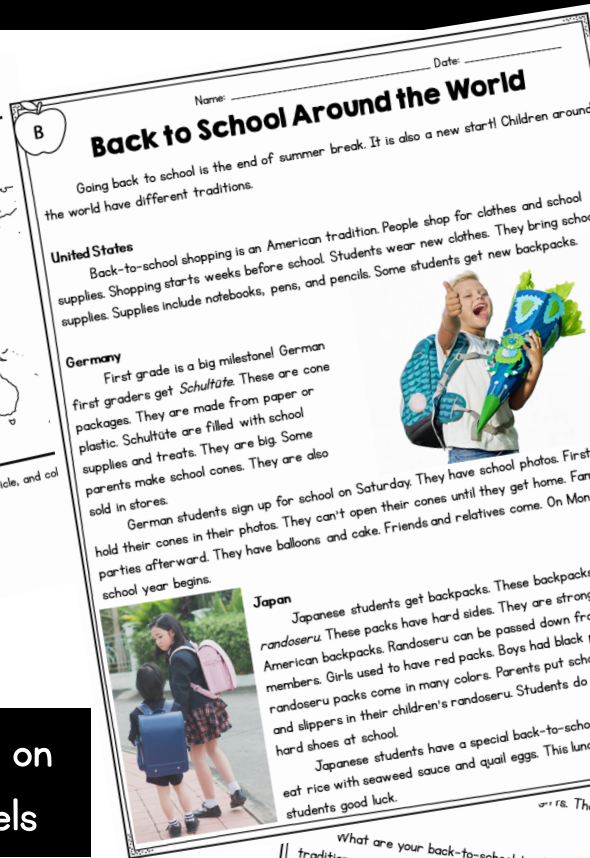
1. Prereading: Map to Locate Countries in Article
2. Three Differentiated Articles: Back to School Around the World
3. Text-Dependent Questions (multiple choice and short response)
4. Summary Graphic Organizer
5. Summary Stationary
6. Writing Activity

What is Included?



Map Activity

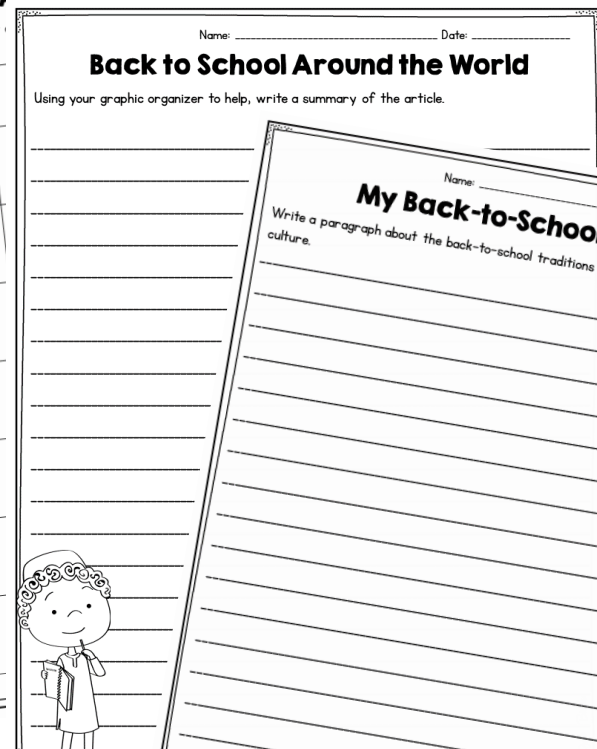
A passage on
three levels



Text Dependent
Questions



Writing Responses



Back to School Around the World

The back-to-school season is more than the end of summer. It is a new start! Children around the world have special back-to-school traditions.

United States

In the United States, back-to-school shopping is a common tradition. Parents and children shop for clothes, shoes, and school supplies. This usually starts weeks before school begins. Students typically wear new clothes and shoes on their first day. Students bring school supplies such as notebooks, pens, and pencils. Many students get new backpacks to carry their supplies.

Germany

In Germany, students entering the first grade receive *Schultüte*. These are school cones that are given by parents. They are cone-shaped packages filled with school supplies, toys, and treats. This tradition celebrates the big milestone that children are meeting by entering first grade. School cones are usually made from cardboard or plastic. They can be as big as the children that receive them! Some parents make school cones for their children. They are also sold ready-made in stores.



German students enroll in school on Saturday. During enrollment, they have school photos taken. First graders bring their school cones to hold in the photos. They must wait until they get home to open their cones. Many German families have parties for their children after enrollment. Parties include balloons and cake. They invite friends and relatives. On the following Monday, the school year begins.

Japan

In Japan, students receive special backpacks called *randoseru*. These packs have hard sides. They are sturdier than most American backpacks. Randoseru are often passed down from other family members. At one time, girls had red packs, and boys had black packs. Today, randoseru packs come in many different colors. Parents usually pack school supplies and new pairs of slippers in their children's randoseru. This is because students are not permitted to wear hard shoes at school.

Another custom in Japan is the back-to-school lunch. Lunch includes rice with seaweed sauce and quail eggs. This lunch is traditionally believed to bring the students good luck for the year.



Russia

In Russia, the first day back to school is called the "Day of Knowledge". Students traditionally bring fresh flowers to their teachers. The teachers give them balloons. In Russia, students wear formal clothing on the first day of school. They attend special ceremonies. At ceremonies, students listen to speeches, poems, and songs. The back-to-school ceremonies inspire students to do their best in school.



India

In India, the first day back to school is called *Praveshanotsavam*. This is Admissions Day. Gifts are often exchanged as part of the back-to-school celebration. The beginning of school in India is during the rainy season. Many students receive new umbrellas as back-to-school gifts.

Italy

In Italy, elementary students receive new smocks on the first day of school. They wear the smocks over their clothes. It is like school uniforms. They also receive ribbons to wear on their smocks that tell their grades.

Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan, each student brings a flower for his or her teacher on the first day of school. The teacher arranges the flowers into a beautiful bouquet. Children going back to school in Kazakhstan receive presents from their parents. These gifts often include sweet treats, pencils, and candles.

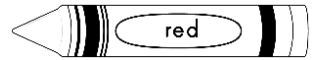


What traditions do you have in your family, school, and culture? Children around the world mark the start of a new school year in different ways.

Back to School Around the World

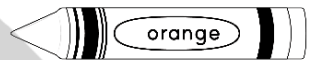
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. Which of the following are back-to-school traditions in Germany? (Choose all that apply.)



- a. All students receive school cones.
- b. Students have their school pictures taken.
- c. Students wear new clothes to school.
- d. First graders receive Schultüte filled with school supplies and treats.

2. What is a similar tradition in both Germany and Japan?



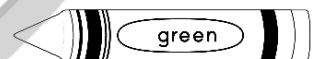
- a. Students have randoseru packs.
- b. Students wear slippers at school.
- c. Students have back-to-school parties.
- d. Students are gifted with new school supplies.

3. What do students in Italy wear to school? (Choose all that apply.)



- a. smocks
- b. rain coats
- c. collared shirts
- d. ribbons that tell their grades

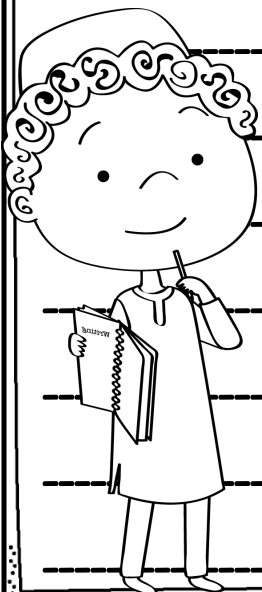
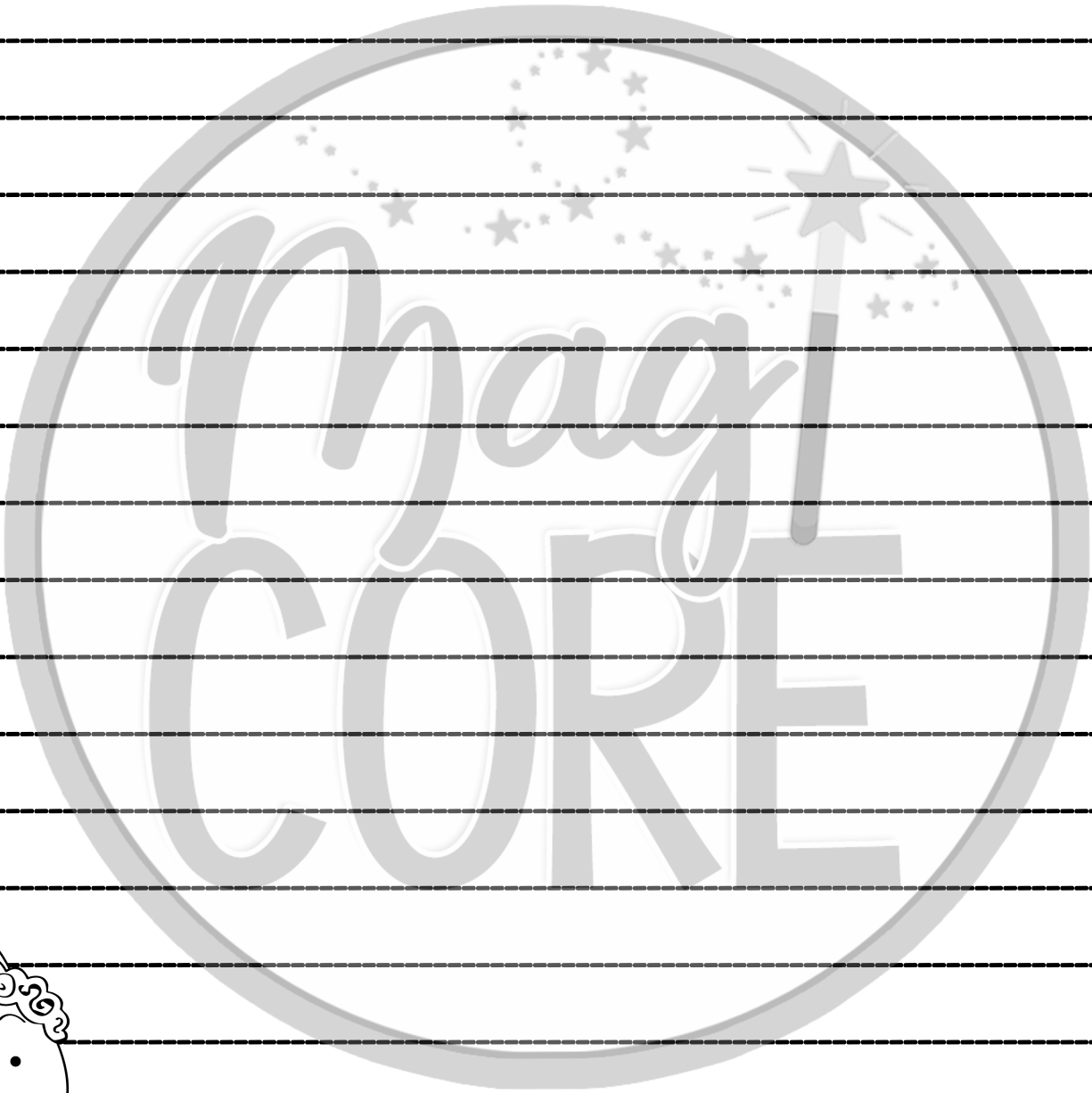
4. How are back-to-school traditions in Russia and Kazakhstan similar? How are they different? Use at least two details from the text to support your answer.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Back to School Around the World

Using your graphic organizer to help, write a summary of the article.



Terms of Use



How Can I Use This Resource?

Thank you for trusting MagiCore. Our mission is to create resources that support teachers and promote student success. Please note that this resource is licensed for use by a single teacher in a classroom setting. If you need to use this resource with more than one teacher and/or across multiple classrooms, additional licenses are available at a discount. You can purchase additional licenses by visiting your TPT "Purchases" page and then selecting "Download Additional Licenses" or by contacting me at julie@magicorelearning.com.



Good to Go



Not O.K.

- Use this resource personally or with your own children.
 - Use this resource in your own classroom with your students.
 - Provide this resource to your students to use at your instruction.
 - Print and/or copy for use in your own classroom.
 - Provide printed pages to a substitute teacher with the sole purpose of instructing your students.
 - Share with your students via a secure document portal or electronic learning platform that requires individual user verification and limits access to only the students in your own classroom (e.g. Google Classroom).
 - Review this resource with others with the sole purpose of recommending it to others for purchase, provided you share one of the links below:
- Share with others to use personally.
 - Share with others to use in another classroom.
 - Print or copy any page(s) and distribute them to other teachers or other classrooms.
 - Publish or host online in a manner where any of the material is accessible to anyone who is not a student in your own classroom, including but not limited to personal, classroom, or district websites that are accessible to the general public.
 - Use this resource commercially (e.g. Outschool).
 - Publish, sell, or otherwise distribute this product to anyone in manner inconsistent with these terms of use.

<https://magicorelearning.com/>

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Magicore>

© Copyright 2018, 2023. All rights reserved. The unlicensed reproduction or distribution of this product is strictly prohibited. Permission is granted to the original purchaser or licensee to make copies to use with students and/or to assign to students digitally providing it is only available to students assigned directly to the purchaser. Using this product in any manner that makes it accessible to the general public is strictly forbidden. Commercial use, including but not limited to online or in person classes, is prohibited. Contact julie@magicorelearning.com for commercial licensing information. Sharing without permission or hosting online in a public manner is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). These terms may be updated at any time. You can see the most up to date Terms of Use at

<https://magicorelearning.com/terms-of-use>.

Credits

