

Florida B.E.S.T. LEXILE

CONTEXT CLUES

in nonfiction



Level:
490

Context Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

A Day in My Life: Spain

My name is Esperanza Balon. I am eight years old. I live in Madrid, Spain with my mama, papa, grandma, and my little brother Carlos.

8:00 a.m.: I usually wake up around 8:00 a.m.. I eat cereal with milk and watch a show on TV. After breakfast, I get ready for school.



My School

12:00 p.m.: This is my favorite time of day- lunch time! Carlos and I go home for lunch with my family. My papa even comes home for lunch. My mama cooks a massive meal that includes an appetizer, main course, and dessert. My favorite is seafood paella. Paella is a dish of rice and seafood. After lunch, we take a small siesta, or nap.



This is me!

9:00 a.m.: My mom walks Carlos and me to school. It takes us about 20 minutes.

9:30 a.m.: School starts. My teacher is Mrs. Sanchez. There are 29 kids in my class. We learn social studies, reading, writing, arithmetic, art, and physical education.



Seafood Paella





Word Detectives Use Context Clues



Definition (meaning)

The concept, or idea, was new to her.



Examples

*Like

*Such as

*OR

The data, such as reading level growth, can be found in student binders.



Synonyms (Same)

The turtle sauntered slowly through the grass.



Antonyms (Opposite)

The plate wasn't brittle because it did not break when she dropped it on the floor.



Word Parts

Is there a helpful PREFIX, SUFFIX, OR ROOT WORD?

helpful
rewrite
pretest

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Level: 770

Context Clues Name: _____ Date: _____

The Black Widow Spider

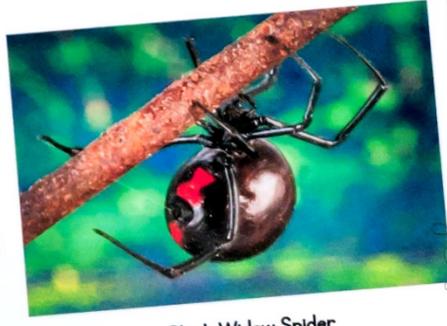
Black widow spiders are one of the most **dreaded** spiders in North America. This is because they are **venomous**, or **poisonous**. They are called black widows because the females usually eat their mates!

Black widow spiders are **arachnids**. Arachnids are animals with eight legs. This spider is easily recognized because it usually has a red or orange hourglass shape on its stomach. Females have shiny, dark black bodies and are about 1-2 inches long. Males are a lighter black. They are about half the size of females. Some males have red spots on their backs.

Black widows live in **moderate** climates all around the world. Areas with cold winters are too cold for them. They can be found in the southern and western parts of the United States. They are also found in South America, Southern Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa.

Black widows eat other arachnids and various insects. Their diet includes flies, ants, mosquitoes, caterpillars, cockroaches, and grasshoppers. They trap their prey in webs. Then, they use their feet to wrap their prey in silk. Next, they injure their prey with their fangs. Finally, they inject digestive enzymes into the insects. The insect's organs liquefy, and the spiders suck up the liquid. The black widow can live for months without eating. Some can live up to a year without food!

Black widows are one of the most venomous spiders to **reside** in North America. Their venom can be fifteen times stronger than rattlesnake venom! While this sounds **treacherous**, these predators will only strike humans if they are disturbed. Their bites are painful, but if they are treated, they rarely cause death.



Black Widow Spider

... of the passage?

This is because they are

... with 8 legs.

4. What is the meaning of the word "moderate" in paragraph 3?
Moderate means mild. Black Widows can not live in places that are too cold.

5. Read this sentence from paragraph 5 of the passage:
Black widows are one of the most venomous spiders to reside in North America.
What does the word "reside" mean in paragraph 5?
Reside means to live.

6. What is the meaning of the word "treacherous" in paragraph 5?
a. safe
b. amazing
c. exciting
d. dangerous



Context Clues

1. What is the meaning of "carnivorous" as it is used in the first paragraph of the passage?

- a. insects
- b. trapped
- c. plant-eating
- d. animal-eating



2. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the passage:
*These plants **obtain** nutrients from trapping and eating animals.*

What does the word "obtain" mean in paragraph 1? (Pick all that apply.)

- a. get
- b. take
- c. gain
- d. receive



3. What is the meaning of the word "digestive" in paragraph 2?

- a. dry
- b. buggy
- c. to create
- d. to break down



4. What is the meaning of the word "acid" in paragraph 3?

Acid breaks things down.



5. Read these sentences from paragraph 4 of the passage:
*They thrive in wet **climates** such as Africa and Central and South America.*

What does the word "climates" mean in paragraph 4?

Climate is the weather in a place. They thrive in wet weather.



6. What is the meaning of the word "native" in the last paragraph?

Native is where something is from. Carnivorous plants may not be from where you live.



Plant

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live in Madrid, Spain with my little brother Carlos.

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My School

12:00 p.m.: This is my favorite time of day- lunch time! Carlos and I go home for lunch. My papa even comes home for lunch.

that includes an appetizer, a massive meal, and dessert. My favorite is seafood paella. After lunch, I go to school.

2:30 p.m.: It's time for physical education.

5:00 p.m.: My mama cooks us a massive meal that includes an appetizer, main course, and dessert.

8:00 p.m.: I go to bed.

10:00 p.m.: I go to bed.

9:00 am: My mom walks to school with us about 20 minutes.

9:30 am: School starts. My teacher is Mrs. Sanchez. There are 29 kids in my class. We learn social studies, reading, writing, arithmetic, art, and physical education.



Food Paella

Context Clues

- 1. What is the meaning of "arithmetic" as it is used in the 4th paragraph of the passage?
 - a. math
 - b. writing
 - c. reading
 - d. physical education

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 5 of the passage: My mama cooks us a massive meal that includes an appetizer, main course, and dessert. What does the word "massive" mean in paragraph 5? (Pick all that apply)

- a. large
- b. huge
- c. small
- d. tasty

3. What is the meaning of the word "paella" in paragraph 5?
Paella is a dish of rice and seafood.

4. What is the meaning of the word "siesta" in paragraph 5?
A siesta is a nap.

5. Read this sentence from paragraph 7 of the passage: Carlos and I slowly amble home and do our homework. What does the word "amble" mean in paragraph 7?
Amble means to walk slowly. I know this because the text says they amble slowly home.

6. What is the meaning of the word "slumber" in paragraph 9?
a. nap
b. sleep
c. snack
d. stories

Level:
730

Context Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

Test: The Star of the Sea

Did you know that starfish are actually not fish at all? This popular sea creature is an invertebrate because it does not have a backbone.



7 Legged Starfish

There are about 2,000 different species of starfish. They usually have 5 arms, but some types have up to 40 arms! Starfish can be smooth, bumpy, or spiny. Many starfish have bright colors. They have tube feet, which help them attach to and climb sand, rocks, and coral. These tube feet help them move since starfish cannot swim. Their mouths are located underneath their body in the center. Did you know that starfish do not have brains? They also do not have blood. Their nervous systems are spread throughout their limbs, which communicate movements throughout their bodies.

Amazingly, starfish can regenerate, or regrow, limbs that become damaged or lost. Starfish may even shed arms to defend themselves from harmful predators. Predators include snails, crabs, sea turtles, otters, and birds.

Starfish feed on whatever is available to them. Some of their diet includes worms, snails, and larvae. Some species of starfish eat their prey outside of their bodies! Their stomachs can come out to digest food and go back into their bodies.

Starfish have appeared in legends across cultures. Even though some starfish can be poisonous, some cultures eat these creatures.



Starfish eating a mussel

Context Clues

1. What is the meaning of "invertebrate" as it is used in the first paragraph of the passage?

- a. a fish
- b. a creature
- c. an animal with a backbone
- d. an animal without a backbone

2. Read these sentences from paragraph 2 of the passage:

There are about 2,000 different **species** of starfish. They usually have 5 arms, but some types have up to 40 arms!

What does the word "species" mean in paragraph 2? (Pick all that apply.)

- a. fish
- b. kinds
- c. types
- d. varieties

3. What is the meaning of the word "nervous systems" in paragraph 2?

A nervous system is a body system that communicates movement through the body.

4. What is the meaning of the word "regenerate" in paragraph 3?

Regenerate means to regrow. Starfish regrow their limbs.

5. Read these sentences from paragraph 4 of the passage:

Starfish feed on whatever is available to them. Some of them have a diet that includes worms, snails, and larva.

What does the word "diet" mean in paragraph 4?

Diet is what something eats. A starfish's diet includes worms, snails, and larva.

6. What is the meaning of the word "prey" in paragraph 4?

- a. food
- b. limbs
- c. snails
- d. stomach

Level:
810

Context Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

Test: Carnivorous Plants

It is a well-known fact that many animals eat other animals. Did you know that plants can also be **carnivorous**? These plants **obtain** nutrients from trapping and eating animals. These animals are usually insects. There are 630 different species of carnivorous plants.

One type of carnivorous plant is the pitcher plant. Pitcher plants can be found in places that have a lot of rain, like South America. It traps its prey in a leaf that is rolled up to look like a bowl. **There is a digestive liquid inside this bowl. This liquid breaks down insects that fall in.**

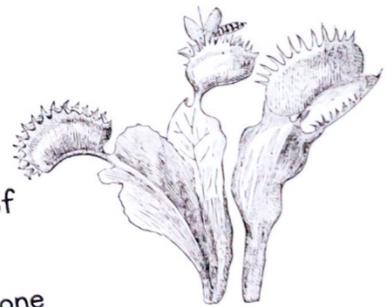
Another type of carnivorous plant is the Venus flytrap. Venus flytraps are found in wet areas in North and South Carolina. This plant's leaves close quickly when the small hairs of the leaf are touched. An insect can cause a leaf to snap shut. **After, the acid in the leaf breaks down the insect.** This takes one or two weeks.

Corkscrew plants are also insect-eating plants. **They thrive in wet climates such as Africa and Central and South America.** Corkscrew plants have leaves shaped like corkscrews. Insects can enter this plant, but are unable to escape. Once an insect enters, it moves towards the stomach of the plant. This is where the insect is digested.

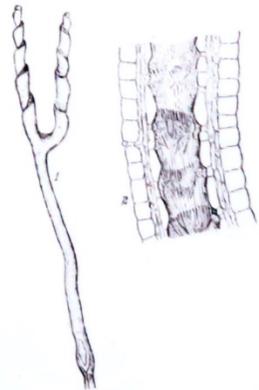
Carnivorous plants such as the pitcher plant, Venus flytrap, and corkscrew plant are amazing to learn about and observe. **While these plants may not be native to where you live, you may be able to purchase one at your local gardening center.**



Pitcher Plant



Venus Flytrap



Corkscrew Plant

© Julie Buckner

Plant

CONTEXT CLUES IN STORIES

2nd & 3rd grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 stories in the 2nd-3rd Grade Florida B.E.S.T. Text Complexity Band.

1. Be a Word Detective! Anchor Chart/Journal Page
2. Practice Page for Modeling and Guided Practice
3. Context Clue Practice Cards (1 pg.)
4. How Chocolate Is Made- 540L
5. The Life Cycle of a Chicken- 560L
6. A Day in My Life, Spain- 570L
7. How to Play Go Fish- 600L
8. Green Machine Smoothie- 730L
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10. The History of Basketball- 740L
11. The Ancient City of Pompeii- 770L
12. Record Breaker: Winter Vinecki- 780L
13. The Great Milk Debate- 800L
14. Context Clues Test
15. The Star of the Sea- 730L
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ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



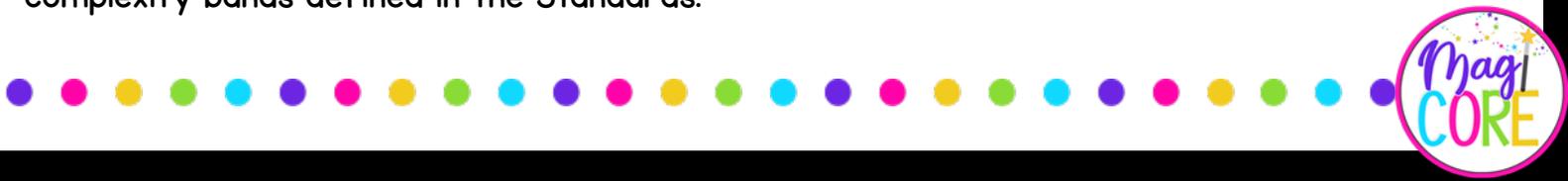
MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

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.

Florida B.E.S.T. 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 Florida B.E.S.T. Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

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 research, “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.”



How to Use This Resource

This resource was modified to fit the Florida B.E.S.T reading standards. It includes:

Anchor Charts: These anchor charts should be used to introduce the skills. You can make copies for student journals and create a large class-sized poster. Teachers should review anchor charts with students during each mini lesson. Students can refer to journal anchor charts while completing independent work.

Guided Practice: The context clues practice page includes three examples of context clues. This can be used for modeling and guided practice.

Practice Passages: These passages are Lexile leveled and include standards-based questions. These are designed to be used for guided practice, independent practice, and small groups. Please note, all passages will not be used in one unit. I provide extra so you can use them for later review.

Assessment: Two assessment passages are included. Both are intended to be used to form a complete assessment; however, some teachers choose to use the assessment passages separately in order to differentiate assessments.

Be a Word Detective!

Context Clues- Clues in a text that can help me figure out what a word means

Where Are Context Clues?

- Look right after the word.
- Look in the sentence before the word.
- Look in the sentence after the word.

Next...

- Replace the unknown word with the new word.
- Ask yourself: "Does the..."



Anchor Chart

Be a Word Detective!

Context Clues- Clues in a text that can help me figure out what a word means

Read the sentence. Underline the context clue. Write the meaning of the word.

1. The boys went on an adventure in their neighborhood. They discovered a vacant house. It had spiderwebs all on the porch. The front door was wide-open, and there was no furniture inside. The boys got scared and ran back home as fast as they could.

Word Meaning: _____

2. Animals are consumers. They eat plants and animals to live. For example, humans eat meat from cows and chickens and plants such as apples and carrots. Humans do not produce their own food.

Word Meaning: _____

Guided Practice

Context Clues Name: _____ Date: _____

How Chocolate Is Made

A favorite treat of many people is chocolate. Whether it is in cookies, cakes, candies, or drinks, most people love this decadent and delicious sweet. Have you ever wondered where chocolate comes from?

Chocolate begins by growing in cocoa pods. Farmers harvest these pods twice a year. When harvested, the cocoa pods are picked and cut open. A white pulp that has the cocoa beans inside is taken out. Next, the pulp is fermented in containers. This is when the pulp and beans are left out to break down. Fermentation helps develop the flavor of the chocolate.

After five to seven days of fermentation, the cocoa beans are dried in the sun. Next, the beans are shipped all over the world to chocolatiers.

Once the chocolatier receives the beans, he or she roasts them. Some chocolatiers roast their beans in ovens. Next, the cocoa beans have their shells removed. This process is called **winnowing**. The cocoa nibs are left.

Then, the cocoa nibs are ground into a paste. Soon after, sugar is added to the chocolate. Milk powder can also be added to make milk chocolate. Afterward, the chocolate is **tempered**. Tempering is when the temperature of the chocolate is raised and lowered to create crystals. This



Farmer harvesting cocoa pod



White pulp inside cocoa pod



Practice Page



How to Use This Resource

Here is the recommend lesson layout and schedule for this resource:

Day 1: Introduce the context clues anchor chart. Model finding the context clues to define a word using the context clues practice page. Work with students to complete two examples together. Emphasize that using context clues is an efficient strategy to define unknown words while reading; however, not all passages will include context clues. If there are no context clues, the reader should use another strategy.

Day 2: Select a story in the mid-range of the text complexity band. Make the story and question set poster size, or project the text and questions. Read the story as a class, and then work together to answer the questions.

Day 3: Students complete a passage and question set in partners. I recommend choosing a text in the mid-range of the text complexity band. Always review work as a class or in groups.

Day 4: Students complete a passage at the low range of the text complexity band independently. Be sure to review student work. If students did not get answers correct, ensure you make time to review with students independently or in small groups.

Day 5-6: Continue to assign increasingly more complex passages. Continue to assess and review work.

Day 7: By the end of the unit, most of your class should be showing mastery of the passages. This is the time to give the assessment. I recommend giving both assessment passages together, but you can also separate the passages and use the different levels to differentiate.

**Follow your students' lead. These lessons may take more or less time. Do not move on to subsequent lessons until your students are showing progress.*



The Black Widow Spider

Black widow spiders are one of the most **dreaded** spiders in North America. This is because they are **venomous**, or poisonous. They are called black widows because the females usually eat their mates!

Black widow spiders are **arachnids**. Arachnids are animals with eight legs. This spider is easily recognized. It usually has a red or orange hourglass shape on its stomach. Females have shiny, dark black bodies and are about 1-2 inches long. Males are a lighter black. They are about half the size of females. Some males have red spots on their backs.

Black widows live in **moderate** climates all around the world. Areas with cold winters are too cold for them. They can be found in the southern and western parts of the United States. They are also found in South America, Southern Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa.

Black widows eat other arachnids and various insects. Their diet includes flies, ants, mosquitoes, caterpillars, cockroaches, and grasshoppers. They trap their prey in webs. Then, they use their feet to wrap their prey in silk. Next, they injure their prey with their fangs. Finally, they inject digestive enzymes into the insects. The insect's organs liquefy. The spiders suck up the liquid. The black widow can live for months without eating. Some can live up to a year without food!

Black widows are one of the most venomous spiders to **reside** in North America. Their venom can be fifteen times stronger than rattlesnake venom! While this sounds **treacherous**, these predators will only strike humans if they are disturbed. Their bites are painful, but if they are treated, they rarely cause death.



Black Widow Spider

Context Clues

1. What is the meaning of "dreaded" as it is used in the first paragraph of the passage?

- a. loved
- b. feared
- c. famous
- d. interesting

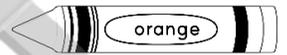


2. Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of the passage:

*Black widow spiders are one of the most **dreaded** spiders in North America. This is because they are **venomous**, or **poisonous**.*

What does the word "venomous" mean in paragraph 1? (Pick all that apply.)

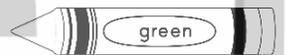
- a. toxic
- b. Scary
- c. frightful
- d. fascinating



3. What is the meaning of the word "arachnids" in paragraph 2?



4. What is the meaning of the word "moderate" in paragraph 3?



5. Read this sentence from paragraph 5 of the passage:

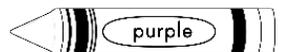
*Black widows are one of the most venomous spiders to **reside** in North America.*

What does the word "reside" mean in paragraph 5?



6. What is the meaning of the word "treacherous" in paragraph 5?

- a. safe
- b. amazing
- c. exciting
- d. dangerous



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Good to Go



Not O.K.

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