

MAY

Differentiated Passages



May Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no 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 does Mama want Melvin to do?

Why doesn't Melvin

3. How does finding

4. How does the
a. The h
b. The h
c. The h
d. The l

5. How do you
text to supp

CAUSE AND EFFECT

A series of events happen in "Outside the Den." These events cause other events to happen listed below.

EFFECT

470L

May Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Outside the Den

Melvin peeked out from the woodpile where his family's den was located. Sunshine made streaks on the green lawn. He squinted in the bright light.

"Go on, Melvin," Mama said. "A skunk can't stay in the den forever. You have to get out there and meet the world."

Melvin ran his paws over his striped tail. "But it's cozy in the den. It's dry. It's safe."

"It's time." Mama nudged Melvin farther out of the den. "Your brother and your sisters have already gone on adventures. Now it's your turn."

Melvin scanned the open space that stretched out in front of the woodpile. "But it's so BIG out there."

"And you're too BIG to be hanging around the den, Melvin," Mama said. "There's lots to explore outside. You'll like it."

Melvin stuck one black paw out onto the grass. It was dewy. His fur got all wet. He didn't care for that. He shook out his paw and backed up.

Mama was right behind him, though. "It's just water, Melvin. You'll be fine." It was clear Mama wasn't going to let Melvin back into the den until he'd gone all the way outside.

Squeezing his eyes shut, Melvin inched into the grass. Now all four of his paws were touching the wet blades. *It's just water, Melvin. You'll be fine.* He let Mama's words echo in his head.



After a few moments of just standing there, the wetness didn't bother him so much. He took a few more steps away from the den. Something fluttered by. At first, it scared him, but when he realized it was just a moth, he calmed down.

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2nd & 3rd Grade

Magi
CORE

MAY PASSAGES

2nd & 3rd grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 6 differentiated leveled passages in the 2nd-3rd Grade Text Complexity Band (the range for 2nd-3rd grade is 420-820). Each passage is available on two levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

1. Welcome, Dear Spring - *Focus on Sequence of Events* (490L, 770L)
2. Outside the Den - *Focus on Cause and Effect* (480L, 700L)
3. Who's Eating the Roses? - *Focus on Making Inferences* (490L, 720L)
4. Cinco de Mayo - *Focus on Using Timelines* (440L, 750L)
5. Kalpana Chawla - *Focus on Summarizing* (450L, 700L)
6. Memorial Day - *Focus on Comparing and Contrasting* (410L, 740L)



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore Learning, 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 | N/A |
| 2-3 | 420L-820L |
| 4-5 | 740L-1010L |
| 6-8 | 925L-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 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."



Welcome, Dear Spring

Alice and Arthur followed Mother out to the greenhouse. They did this every year when the first of May came. They each had a basket. Clippers were in their hands.

Alice headed for the daisies. They would look so pretty woven into her blonde hair. Arthur wandered over to the carnations. Mother had given him the job of choosing flowers. Their family would make bouquets and wreaths. They would deliver them to their neighbors. This would celebrate spring. Arthur had complained about the job at first.

“I do not want to pick flowers, Mother,” he had whined.

“I suppose you do not want to drop off the bouquets and wreaths either,” Mother had said. “Knocking on our neighbors’ doors and running away before they can catch us is such fun. How sad you do not wish to play along.”

Arthur had quickly changed his mind. He had taken the basket and clippers. “Louis next door will never catch me.”

The three of them gathered blooms from the greenhouse. Mother helped Alice and Arthur make the bouquets and wreaths. She wove the daisies into Alice’s hair. She even stuck some in her own hair.

“Are we ready to deliver these now?” Arthur asked.

“Certainly,” Mother said, “but you had better be sneaky and quick.”



Arthur knew he was both. He started at Louis's house. He laughed as he watched his best friend from behind a row of bushes. Louis picked up the wreath. He looked all around his front yard. Louis's father came out too. He put the wreath on their front door. He then led Louis back into the house.

The same happened at all the other neighbors' houses. Alice handed Arthur bouquets and wreaths. He delivered them without being caught. Arthur did a twirl after they dropped off the last of the flowers.

"Not one neighbor caught me delivering flowers," he said.

When they returned home, Mother and Father led them to the town's May Day Parade. They watched the May Queen get crowned. They listened to her speech. It welcomed spring. Girls in white dresses with flowers in their hair sang. They also danced. Alice hoped to be picked as May Queen when she was old enough.

Dancing around the maypole was next. Alice and Arthur joined some of the other children. They each grabbed a long ribbon. The ribbons were attached to the pole. The pole stood tall in the middle of the town green. They danced in patterns to celebrate the season. The ribbons made colorful stripes around the pole.

Alice won first place in a hobby horse race. Arthur hit a target right in the center at an archery tournament. Their entire family ate together. May Day ended with a bonfire by the lake. Father played his flute. Mother, Alice, and Arthur danced.

Flowers were on their own doorstep when they got home.

"The neighbors are just as sneaky and quick as you are, Arthur." Alice picked up one of the bouquets.

Arthur pulled a pink rose with double petals out of the bouquet. "Not as sneaky," he said. "Louis's mother is the only one who grows this type of rose. This bouquet is from his family. That makes me the sneakiest."

Alice laughed. "Better luck on next year's May Day, Louis."

Welcome, Dear Spring

Alice and Arthur followed Mother out to the greenhouse. They did this every year when the first of May arrived. They each had a basket hanging from their arms and a pair of clippers in their hands.

Alice headed straight for the daisies. They would look so wonderful woven into her long, blonde hair. Arthur, on the other hand, wandered over to the carnations. Mother had given him the job of choosing flowers for the bouquets and wreaths their family would make and deliver to their neighbors in celebration of spring. At first, Arthur had complained about the job.

“I do not want to spend the morning picking flowers, Mother,” he had whined.

“I suppose you do not want to drop off the bouquets and wreaths either,” Mother had said. “Knocking on our neighbors’ doors and running away before they can catch us is such fun. How unfortunate you do not wish to participate.”

Arthur had quickly changed his mind. He had taken the basket and clippers Mother had held out to him. “Louis next door will never catch me.”

The three of them gathered blooms from the greenhouse. Mother helped Alice and Arthur make the bouquets and wreaths. She took time to weave the daisies into Alice’s hair and even stuck some in her own hair.

“Are we ready to deliver these now?” Arthur looked at all the work they had done.

“Certainly,” Mother said, “but you had better be sneaky and quick.”



Arthur knew he was both. He started at Louis's house. He laughed as he watched his best friend from behind a row of bushes. Louis picked up the wreath Arthur had left and looked all around his front yard. Louis's father came out and put the wreath on their front door. He then ushered Louis back into the house.

The same happened at all the other neighbors' houses. Alice handed Arthur bouquets and wreaths, and he delivered them without being caught. Arthur did a twirl after they dropped off the last of the flowers.

"Not one neighbor caught me delivering flowers," he boasted.

When they returned home, Mother and Father led them to the town's May Day Parade. They all watched the May Queen get crowned and listened to her speech that welcomed spring. Girls in white dresses with flowers in their hair sang and danced. Alice hoped to be picked as May Queen when she was old enough.

Dancing around the maypole was next. Alice and Arthur joined some of the other children. They each grabbed a long ribbon attached to the tall pole in the middle of the town green. As they danced in patterns to celebrate the changing of the seasons, the ribbons wound around the pole in colorful stripes.

Alice won first place in a hobby horse race. Arthur hit a target right in the center at an archery tournament. Their entire family feasted, and May Day ended with a bonfire by the lake. Father played his flute while Mother, Alice, and Arthur danced around the fire.

When they returned home, bunches of flowers were on their own doorstep.

"Looks as if the neighbors are just as sneaky and quick as you are, Arthur," Alice said, picking up one of the bouquets.

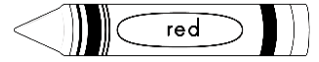
Arthur plucked a pale pink rose with double petals out of the bouquet Alice held. "Not as sneaky," he said. "Louis's mother is the only one in the neighborhood who grows this type of rose, so we know this bouquet is from his family. That officially makes me the sneakiest."

Alice laughed. "Better luck on next year's May Day, Louis."

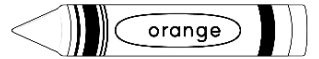
May Comprehension Questions

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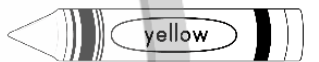
1. Where does this story take place?
- a. a busy city during the spring
 - b. a small town on May Day
 - c. in the forest on a summer day
 - d. on a farm at harvest time



2. What do Mother, Alice, and Arthur create from the flowers they gather?



3. List **three** activities the family does to celebrate May Day.



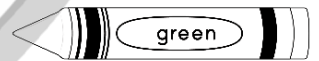
Activity 1

Activity 2

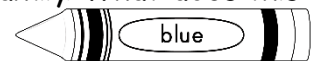
Activity 3

4. Based on the May Day celebration, what word best describes the town where Alice and Arthur live?

- a. greedy
- b. entertaining
- c. gloomy
- d. crowded


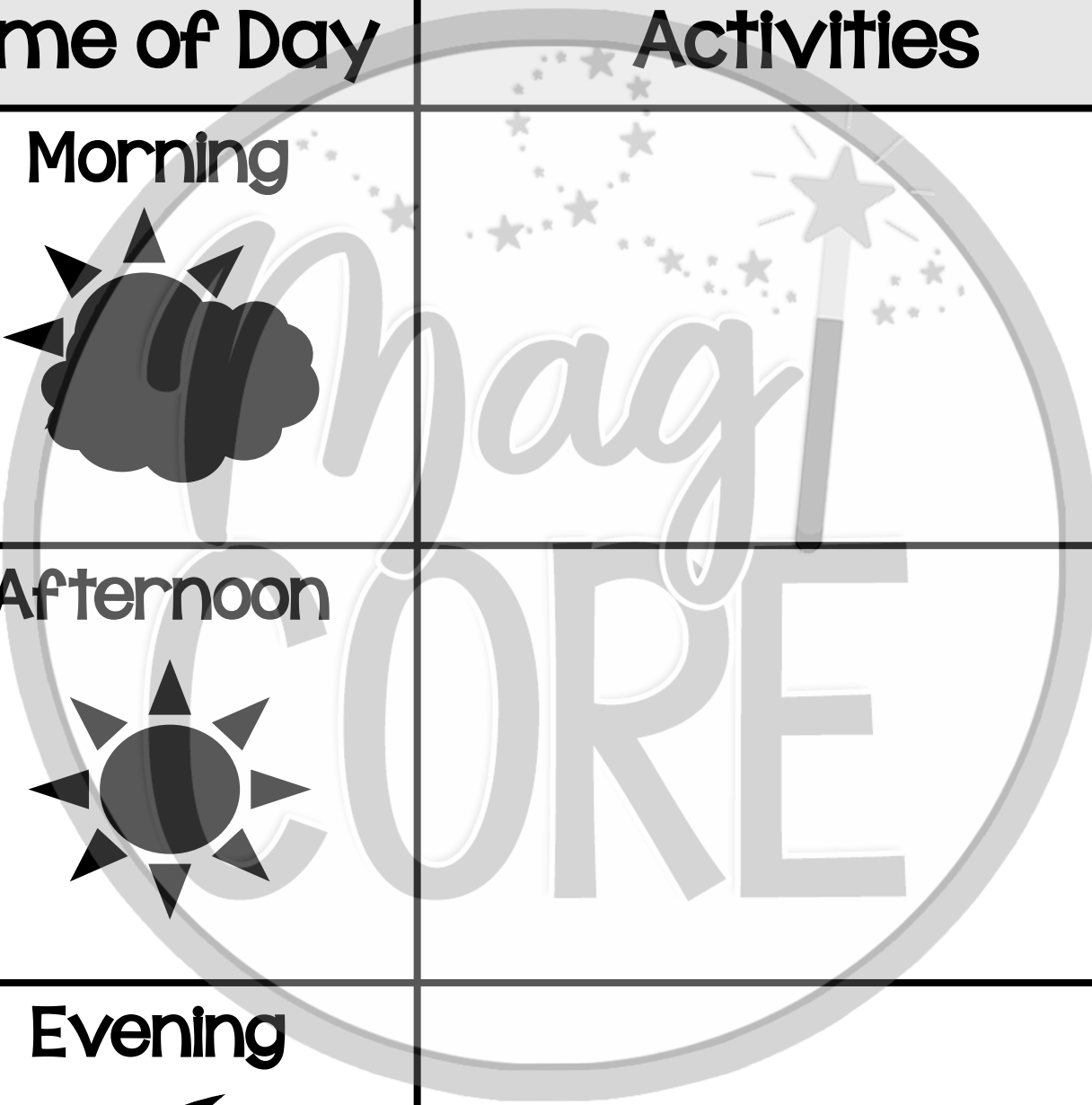

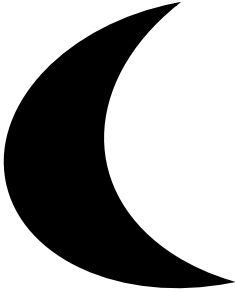


5. At the end of the story, Arthur figures out which bouquet is from Louis's family. What does this tell you about his character?



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

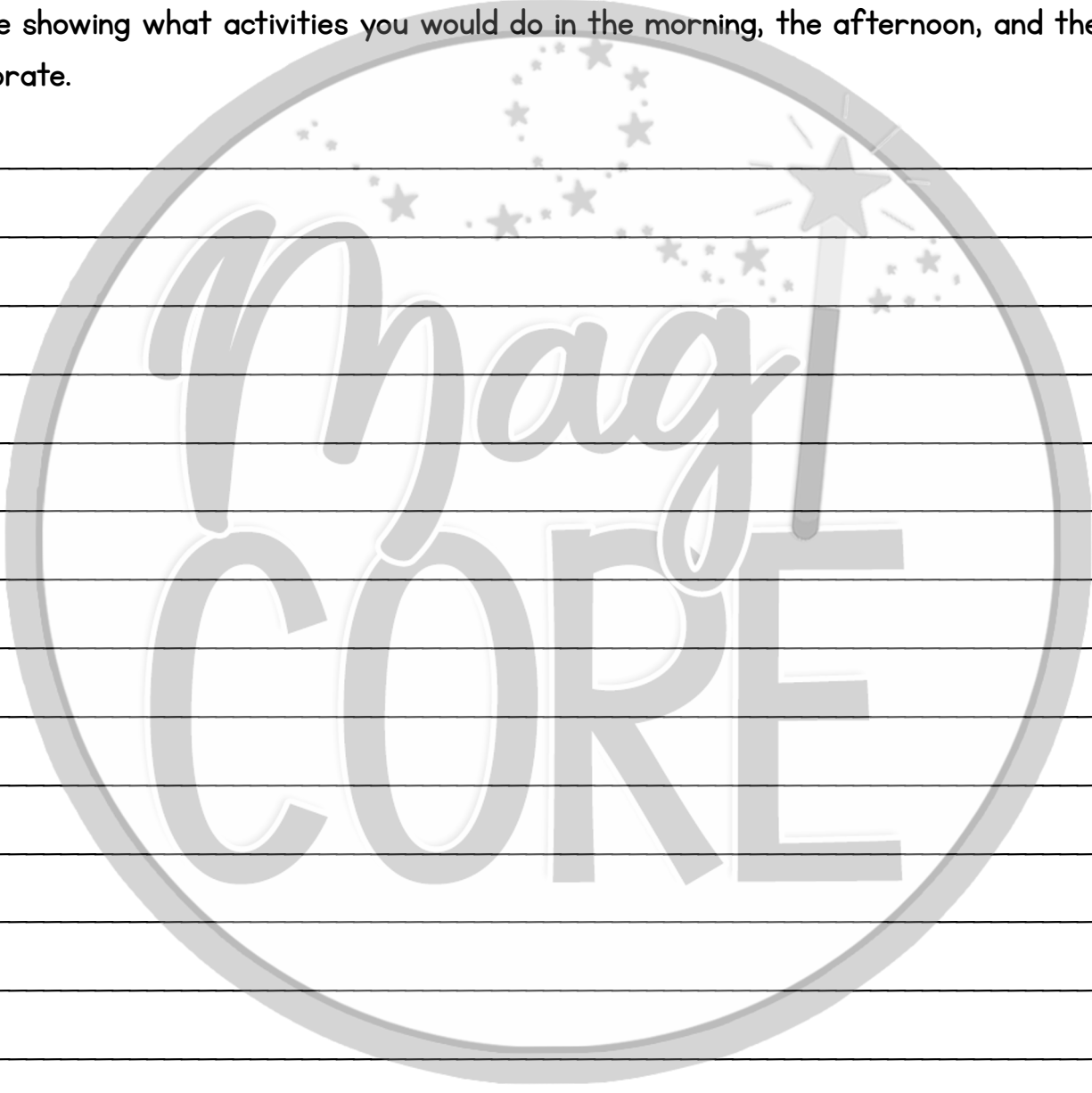
The town in "Welcome, Dear Spring" celebrates May Day by participating in planned events. Fill in the schedule below with events from the story to show what activities the townspeople do at each time of day.

| Time of Day | Activities |
|--|---|
| <p>Morning</p>  |  |
| <p>Afternoon</p>  | |
| <p>Evening</p>  | |

WELCOME, DEAR SPRING RESPONSE

“Welcome, Dear Spring” is a story about celebrating May Day, the beginning of the spring season. What is your favorite season? What do you love about that season? Imagine it’s your job to create a day of celebration for the beginning of your favorite season. Make a schedule showing what activities you would do in the morning, the afternoon, and the evening to celebrate.

Lined writing area for student response.



Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo means May 5th in Spanish. It is celebrated on May 5th every year.

Cinco de Mayo honors Mexico's **victory** in the Battle of Puebla. This battle was on May 5, 1862. The French attacked a small town in Mexico. They thought they would win. They had a big army. The Mexicans only had a small army. The **outnumbered** Mexicans won.

Cinco de Mayo is not a big holiday in Mexico. It is not a national holiday. It is just a regular day for most people. Children have the day off from school, though. There are parades.



Girl painting the flag of Mexico

This holiday now celebrates Mexican-American culture in America. It was first celebrated in California in 1863. It spread in the 1950s and 1960s. Cinco de Mayo became popular in the 1980s. People advertised the holiday. Cities with large Mexican-American populations have big parties.

Cinco de Mayo banners are hung to celebrate. Children learn about Cinco de Mayo in school. Special events are held. Mexican arts are showcased. There is Mexican food, music, and dancing.

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo means May 5th in the Spanish language. It is celebrated on May 5th every year.

Cinco de Mayo honors Mexico's win over the French army in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Six thousand French troops attacked a small town in Mexico. They were sure they would win. The president of Mexico at the time gathered 2,000 men who lived nearby to fight. The **outnumbered** Mexicans won the battle. This **victory** raised the Mexican people's spirits.

Cinco de Mayo is not a big holiday in Mexico. It is not considered a national holiday, but children do have the day off from school. For most, it is just a regular day. Celebrations include military parades.



Girl painting the flag of Mexico

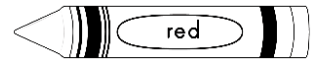
Nowadays, this holiday celebrates Mexican-American culture in America. The holiday was first celebrated in California in 1863. It spread to the rest of the country in the 1950s and 1960s. Cinco de Mayo didn't become popular until the 1980s when marketers began to advertise holiday celebrations. Now, cities with large Mexican-American populations have big parties.

Some people display Cinco de Mayo banners to celebrate. Children learn about the history of Cinco de Mayo in school. Special events are held to show Mexican arts such as food, music, and dancing.

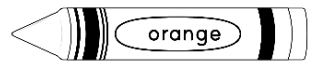
May Comprehension Questions

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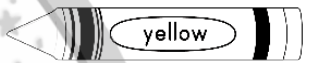
1. When is Cinco de Mayo celebrated?



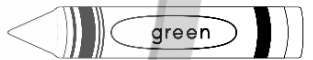
2. What historical event does Cinco de Mayo honor?



3. Is Cinco de Mayo more popular in America or Mexico? Use text evidence to support your answer.



4. What word would you use to describe the small Mexican army if they won a battle against a large French army? Why did you choose that word?



5. Which of the following would be the best heading for the last paragraph?

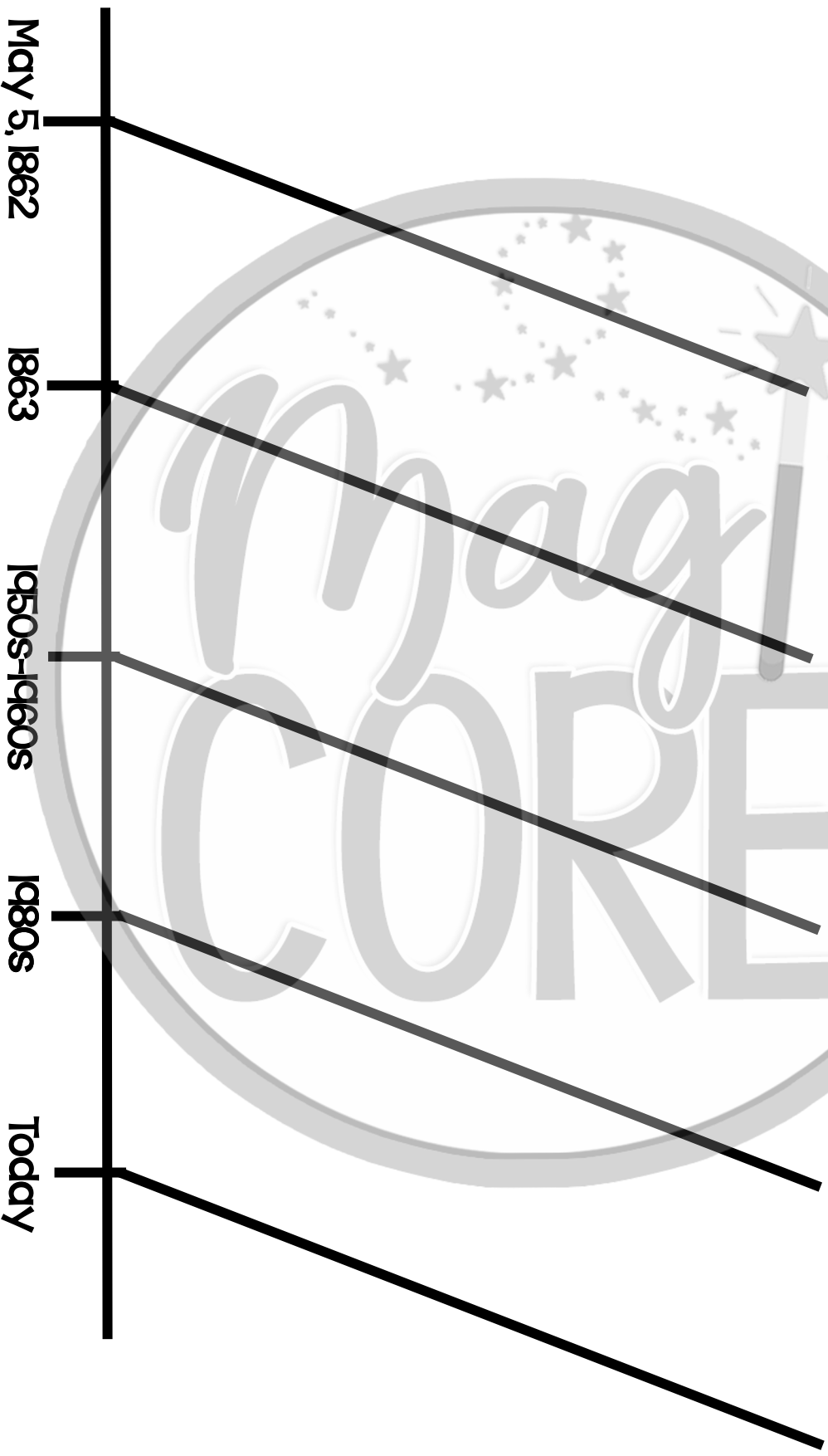
- a. How Cinco de Mayo Got Its Name
- b. Why People Celebrate Cinco de Mayo
- c. Ways to Celebrate Cinco de Mayo
- d. Victory in the Battle of Puebla

6. Choose one of the **bold words** in the text. What does that word mean? What clues in the text helped you figure out the meaning? Use the word in a sentence of your own.



USING TIMELINES

A timeline is a handy tool to use when you need to keep track of when events happened. Use the information in “Cinco de Mayo” to fill in what happened at each time provided.



CINCO DE MAYO RESPONSE

Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican-American culture. Do you think it is important to celebrate other cultures? Why or why not? Give three reasons to support your thinking.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a holiday in the United States. It honors those who have died in combat. It is celebrated in May each year. It has been an official U.S. holiday since 1971. Memorial Day originated after the Civil War. It was called Decoration Day. Graves were decorated with flags and flowers.



Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington Cemetery

Memorial Day is a time to remember. We honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. They made this sacrifice while serving their country. They protected our freedom. It is a day to reflect. It is not just for those who died in combat. We honor all those who served. This includes veterans. Many still suffer from the memories of war.

Memorial Day is celebrated in different ways. There are parades and ceremonies at cemeteries. There are also moments of silence. We spend these moments remembering those who died in service. There is a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. People fly the American flag. It is a sign of respect. It honors those who served our country.

Memorial Day is an important part of our history. It is a reminder and celebration. We remember the sacrifices made by soldiers. We also honor the current military. They are honored for their bravery and commitment.

Memorial Day is a time for Americans to come together. It is a time to show appreciation. We appreciate those who serve our country. We honor their courage. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on what freedom means and how we can work together to keep it.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States. It honors those who have died while serving in the armed forces. It is celebrated on the last Monday of May each year. It has been an official U.S. holiday since 1971. Memorial Day originated after the Civil War as Decoration Day. Graves were decorated with flags and flowers.



Memorial Day is to remember and pay tribute. We honor those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

They made this sacrifice while serving their country. They protected our freedom. It is also seen as a day to reflect on the sacrifices made by all who served. It is not just for those who died in combat. This includes veterans who may have lived through their service. Many still suffer from the trauma of war.

Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington Cemetery

How we celebrate Memorial Day varies from place to place. It is typically observed with parades and ceremonies at cemeteries. There are also moments of silence. We spend these moments remembering those who have died in service. There is a National Moment of Remembrance that happens at 3 p.m. People often fly the American flag on this day. It is a sign of respect for those who died while serving their country.

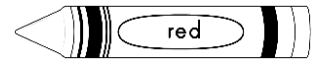
Memorial Day is an important part of our history and culture. It serves as both a reminder and a celebration. We remember the sacrifices made by soldiers throughout American history. It is also an opportunity to recognize all military personnel. They are recognized for their bravery and dedication to our nation.

Memorial Day is a time for Americans to come together and show appreciation for the courage of those who have served our country. We honor their memory. We ensure their legacy will not be forgotten. It is also an opportunity for us to reflect on what freedom means and how we can work together to maintain it.

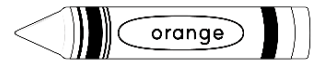
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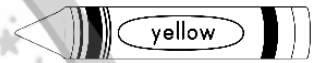
1. When is Memorial Day celebrated?



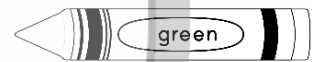
2. Why was Memorial Day originally called Decoration Day?



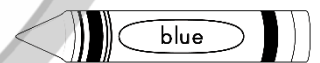
3. Who is honored on Memorial Day?



3. How do people celebrate Memorial Day?

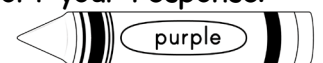


4. What is the purpose of having a moment of silence?



- a. To have some peace and quiet
- b. To listen to Memorial Day speeches
- c. To enjoy patriotic music
- d. To remember those who have died in service

5. How is honor a theme for Memorial Day? Use evidence from the text to support your response.



COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

Readers can use details in a text to compare and contrast topics. Use the details about Memorial Day from the text to compare and contrast this holiday with another holiday of your choice.

| Holiday | Memorial Day | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Month the Holiday is Celebrated | | |
| Where the Holiday is Celebrated | | |
| Reason for Celebrating the Holiday | | |
| How the Holiday is Celebrated | | |

MEMORIAL DAY RESPONSE

Imagine your town is holding a poetry contest and asking people to write poems about Memorial Day and what it honors. Use facts from the text and your own thoughts about Memorial Day to write a poem that could be entered. Your poem may rhyme, but it doesn't have to.



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Not O.K.

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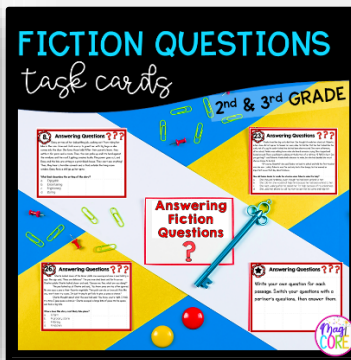


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