

JUNE

Differentiated Passages



SHOWING YOUR THINKING

Good readers have thoughts as they read a story. It is how they monitor their comprehension of a text. Use this sheet to record your thinking as you read "The First Beach Day."

From the text:

I think this because ...

because ...

because ...

cause ...

ause ...

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June Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If you will need to infer the answer, you should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

- Why are Riley and Sanja?
 - The beach is
 - It's the begin
 - They are hav
 - It's their ver

2. What one rule does

Compare Starina's

Before:

1. How do Riley and

5. Riley asks Starina character? Who

770L

June

The First Beach Day

Riley and Sanja followed their parents onto the beach, both of them looking around with wide eyes. They had been adopted only two months ago, and this was their first trip ever to the ocean.

"I've seen pictures of the beach," Riley said, turning in a slow circle to take in the sand stretching for miles to the right and left of him, "but I still didn't expect it to look like *this*."

"I didn't either," Sanja said, scanning the water. "I've flown over the ocean in a plane when I traveled from India, but it's different to actually have my feet in this warm sand."

"What do you think, boys?" Mom said as she spread out a blanket for them to sit on.

"It's amazing," Sanja said.

Riley jumped up and down. "I love it!"

"We knew you both would enjoy the beach." Dad stuck an umbrella pole into the sand, then opened it to give them some shade from the beaming sun. "Why don't you both do a little exploring? Just make sure you can see our umbrella while you're having fun."

Riley and Sanja took off toward the water first. They splashed around and did swimming races against each other. When their fingertips looked like raisins, they came out of the water and walked along the shore.

"There are so many seashells here," Sanja said, crouching to look at several stuck in the sand between his feet.

Riley was about to reply as he squatted next to Sanja, but then a soft voice said,



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4th & 5th Grade



JUNE PASSAGES

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 6 differentiated leveled passages in the 4th-5th Grade Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740-1010). Each passage is available on two levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

1. Sif and Her Golden Hair - *Focus on Types of Conflict* (770L, 950L)
2. The First Beach Day - *Focus on Showing Thinking* (770L, 930L)
3. Freedom - *Focus on Sensory Details* (Poem)
4. Juneteenth - *Focus on Paraphrasing* (810L, 1010L)
5. Stonewall - *Focus on Cause and Effect* (740L, 980L)
6. Prehistoric Carnivores - *Focus on Purposeful Reading* (800L, 980L)



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.

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-1185L

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."



Sif and Her Golden Hair

Thor was the god of thunder, the sky, and agriculture. He was a defender of Asgard, the realm of the Norse gods. Thor was a great and powerful warrior, but he did have one soft spot - his goddess wife, Sif. Sif had the most beautiful blonde hair. It flowed all around her and shined like sunlight. Thor loved Sif's hair. Sif considered it her most prized feature because Thor loved it so much.

One day, Loki, the god of mischief, came upon Sif. She was sleeping outside her house. Her gorgeous hair surrounded her and glinted in the sun. He instantly saw a chance to create trouble and crept closer. With a pair of shears, Loki cut off all of Sif's hair. He took every last strand, leaving Sif's head bare.

Thor had been away, but when he returned to his house, he wanted to see his lovely, golden-haired wife. He called out to her. She did not answer. He looked for her, but she was nowhere in their home. He searched the palaces of other gods and goddesses, but Sif could not be found.

When Thor went back to his house, a quiet voice called his name. A figure wearing a veil came from the shadows. Sobs sounded as Thor got closer. He knew at once the figure was Sif.

"What has happened to make you so sad, my wife?" Thor asked.

"Oh, husband," Sif cried. "Do not look upon me for I am a terrible sight. I shall leave this place and go live with the dwarves. I am no longer fit to live here in Asgard among gods and goddesses."

"Please tell me, what has happened?" Thor asked again.

"I have lost my beautiful golden hair that you loved so much," Sif said. "You could not possibly love me still without it. I must go live with the dwarves." She removed her veil, and Thor saw her bare head, all her golden hair gone.



Thor's rage built up inside him. "I still love you, Sif, but who did this to you? I am Thor. No one in Asgard is stronger than me. We shall get your hair returned to you." He grabbed Sif by the hand and took her to the Council House of the gods and goddesses. He told them of Sif's stolen hair, and they all suspected Loki.

"I shall find Loki and slay him for this act," Thor announced.

"You shall not," Odin, father of all the gods, said. "Gods do not slay other gods. Instead, we will summon Loki here. We will make him return your wife's hair."

Loki heard the call of Odin and reported to Asgard at once. Thor's rage and Odin's stern face made Loki realize he had to make amends for his trick on Sif.

"You must restore Sif's hair, Loki, for you have done a terrible wrong against her," Odin said.

Loki set out to visit the dwarves. They were the finest craftsmen in the world. He watched them working on making a variety of things such as spears and boats. Loki praised the dwarves for their skill. The dwarves felt proud to hear such compliments.

"Surely you have a bar of gold here somewhere that you can hammer into fine threads like the shining, golden hair of Thor's wife, Sif," Loki said. "Only you dwarves could craft such a lovely thing that would make the gods themselves jealous of your talents."



The dwarves were flattered by Loki's words. They immediately got to work on shaping a gold bar into slim threads that resembled hair. They worked and worked until they had enough threads to make a cap of the golden hairs that would cover a head. It shined like sunlight and was light as a feather.

Loki praised the dwarves some more and convinced them to let him have the cap of golden hair. He returned to Asgard.

"Sif, take off your veil," he said, very aware of the fiery rage still in Thor's eyes.

Slowly, with her eyes closed, Sif removed the veil. Loki put the cap of golden hair onto her head. All the gods and goddesses applauded and praised the cap's beauty. When Sif opened her eyes, she saw the golden hair - more beautiful and shining than her original hair - flowing around her. Then she looked into Thor's eyes to see the rage was gone.

"You are never to do such a thing again," Thor warned Loki, but everyone knew Loki would indeed play such tricks again. He was the god of mischief after all.

The cap of golden hair held fast to Sif's head as if growing roots, and she once again had the most beautiful hair in Asgard.

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CORE

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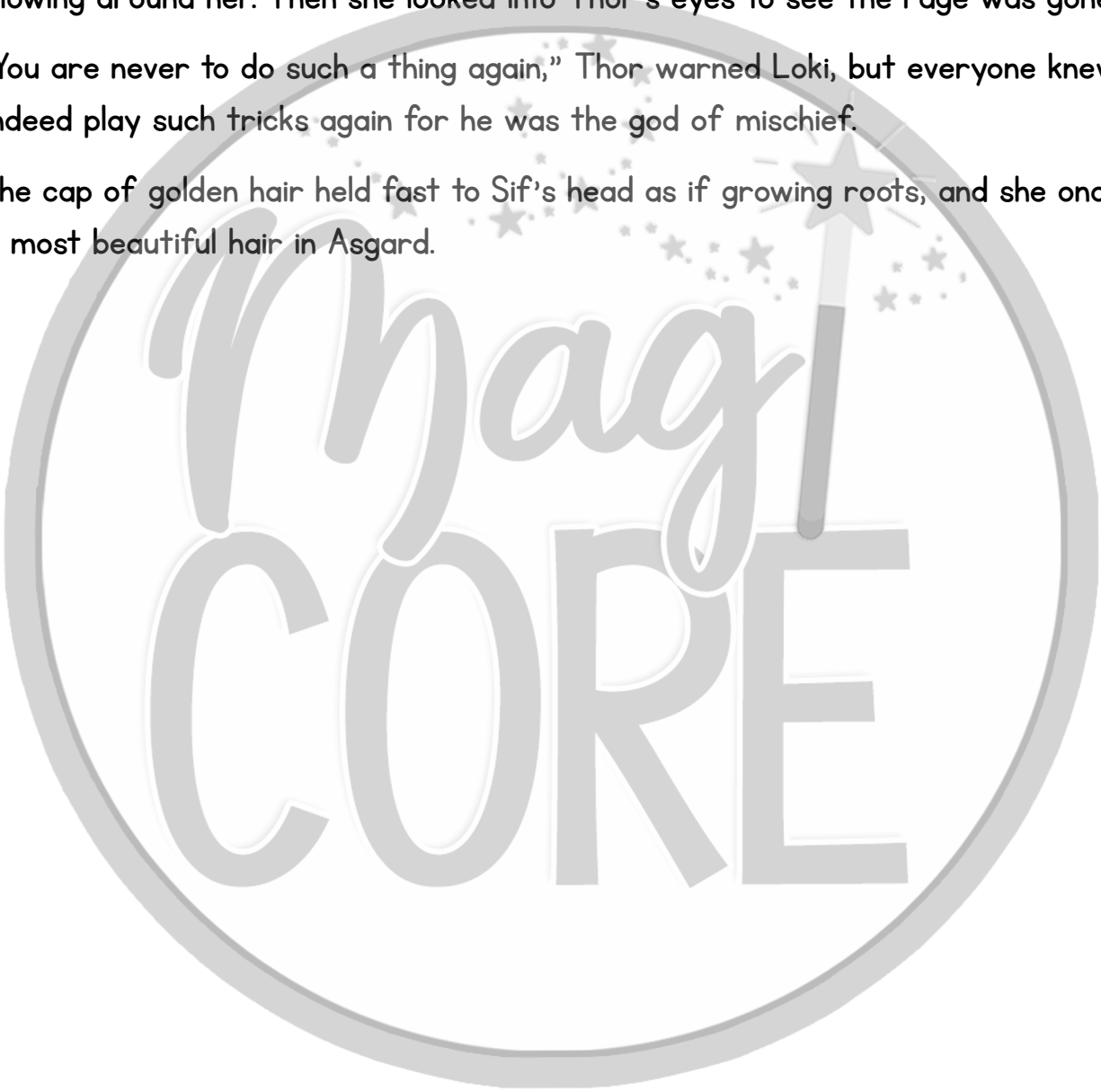


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June Comprehension Questions

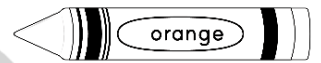
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What special feature does Sif possess?

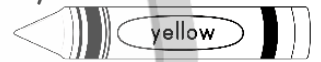
- a. Beautiful wings with white feathers
- b. A radiant smile that makes everyone happy
- c. Blonde hair that shines like sunlight
- d. Eyes the color of a summer sky



2. What trick does Loki, the god of mischief, play on Sif?



3. What is Sif feeling that makes her hide from Thor and wear a veil? How do you know?

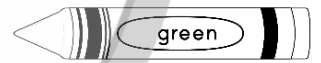


4. How does Loki get the dwarves to make him the cap of golden hair?

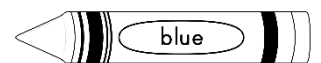
First, Loki ...

Next, he ...

Finally, Loki ...



5. What word would you use to describe Thor and Sif's relationship? Use evidence from the text to support your word choice.



TYPES OF CONFLICT

Stories are interesting to read because of the conflicts that cause problems for the main characters. There are six main types of conflict, and authors often use different combinations of these in a single story. Read the descriptions of each type of conflict below. Find examples from "Sif and Her Golden Hair" that show the types of conflict. Some of the conflict types are NOT used in this story. Leave those boxes blank.

Type of Conflict	Definition	Example from Story
Person versus Self	Conflict is between the character and their inner self/feelings.	
Person versus Person	Conflict is between two or more characters.	
Person versus Nature	Conflict is between the character and some natural force such as a hurricane.	
Person versus Society	Conflict is between the character and the rules of the society in the story.	
Person versus Supernatural	Conflict is between the character and something supernatural such as a monster.	
Person versus Technology	Conflict is between the character and some invention.	



SIF AND HER GOLDEN HAIR RESPONSE

In "Sif and Her Golden Hair," Sif sleeps through Loki giving her an unwanted haircut. How would the story have been different if she'd awakened before he'd finished? How would this have changed the conflict? Write a short scene that shows what happens when Sif catches Loki in the act.



Freedom

The dock creaks
as my bare feet
pad over weather-worn wood.

The sun has only just awakened,
its first brushstrokes
painting the sky orangey-pink.

A dragonfly lands on
a dewy cattail,
swaying in the morning light.

Shining,
shimmering,
shenanigans in shallow shoals.

I step into my rowboat,
a buoyant prisoner,
tethered to the dock.

Restraints released,
human and boat drift,
letting the lake lead.

My fingers find the water,
comb its surface,
drawing lines that do not stay.

Wandering,
wishing
willows would whisk me away.

Sunshine beams brighter,
bathing me in golden magic,
summer's warm embrace.

Oars dip into the lake,
gaining control of my destiny,
as birdsong soothes my soul.

I don't have to be anywhere,
but in the here and now,
enjoying nature's peace.

Flowing,
flying,
freedom.



June 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. How many stanzas does the poem "Freedom" have?

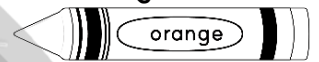
- a. 3
- b. 6
- c. 12
- d. 23



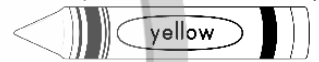
2. **Personification** is a form of figurative language that gives human qualities to something nonhuman.

Which line from the poem is an example of personification?

- a. The sun has only just awakened
- b. I step into my rowboat
- c. Human and boat drift
- d. Sunshine beams brighter

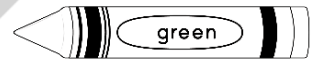


3. Poems often make readers feel emotion. Pick a stanza, tell what emotion it makes you feel, and why.

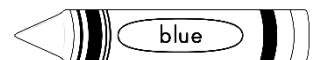


4. **Alliteration** is the repetition of beginning consonant sounds in nearby words, like tongue twisters.

Which stanzas have alliteration in the poem? (Give stanza numbers.) How does the alliteration add to the tone of the poem?

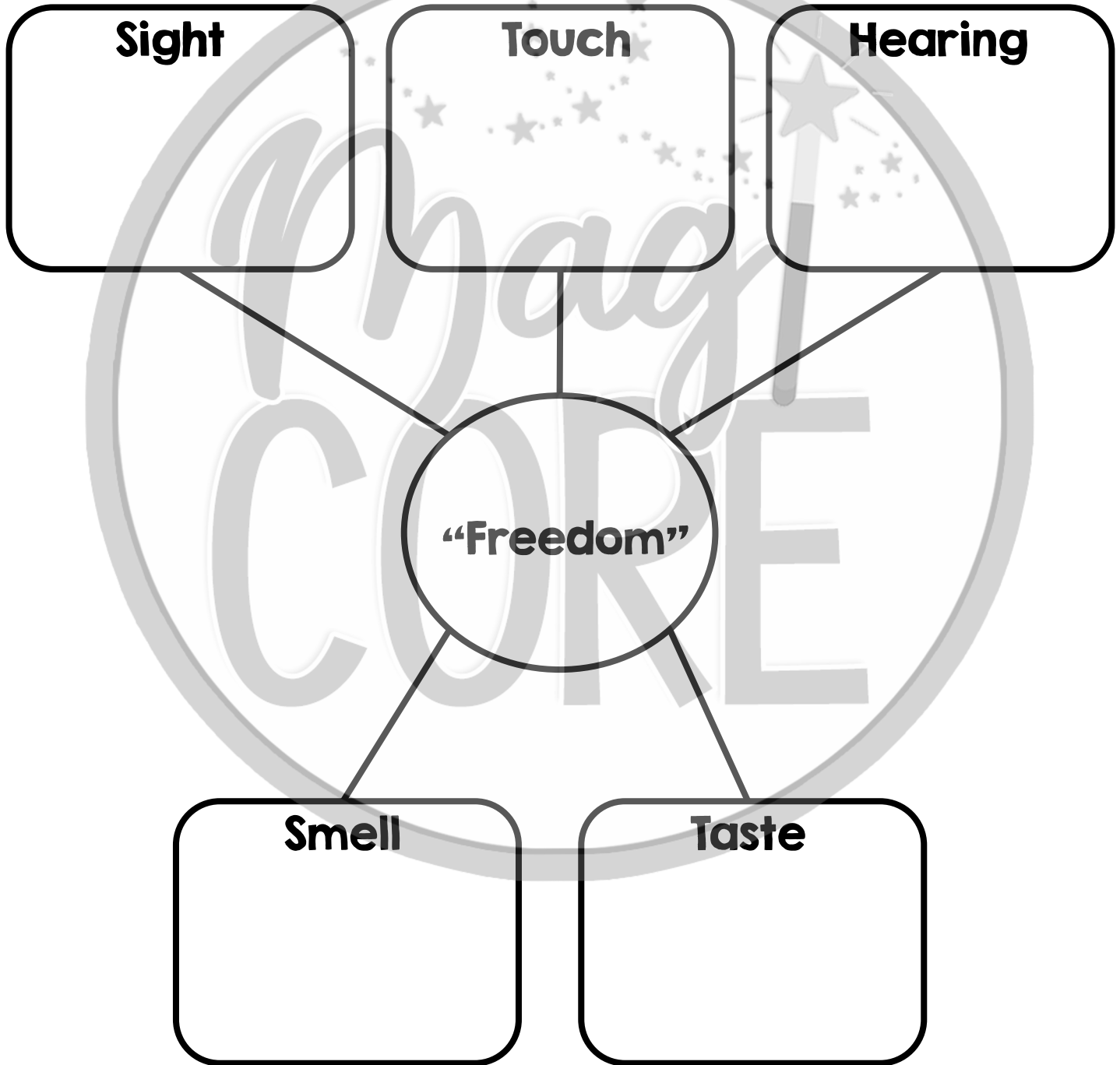


5. Why is "Freedom" a good title for this poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



SENSORY DETAILS

Poets appeal to readers' senses with their writing. Find examples of sensory details in "Freedom" and add them to the web. Two senses are not represented in the actual poem. Add in details that could have been used for those senses that make sense for the topic of the poem.



FREEDOM RESPONSE

How does the narrator of the poem "Freedom" feel about the setting she is in? Use text evidence to support your answer. Think of a place that has made you feel the same way. Describe that place and why it makes you feel that way. Remember to use sensory details.



A large, faint watermark in the center of the page features the word "Magi" in a cursive font and "CORE" in a bold, blocky font. Above the text is a graphic of a wand with a star at the tip, surrounded by a trail of smaller stars. The watermark is overlaid on a series of horizontal lines for writing.

Prehistoric Carnivores

Dinosaurs are a truly fascinating species. They have captured the imaginations of people for decades. Dating back to the Triassic period, these animals ruled the Earth for nearly 150 million years. Dinosaurs went extinct during the Cretaceous-Tertiary period. This was approximately 66 million years ago. Dinosaurs were incredibly diverse. They ranged from gentle herbivores to the fearsome carnivores we will explore in this passage.

Carnivorous dinosaurs were some of the most successful hunters ever to roam the Earth. They belonged to a group called theropods. This group included both two and four-legged species. Many of these predators had sharp claws and teeth. These traits allowed them to tear into their prey with ease. Some of the most famous carnivores include Tyrannosaurus Rex, Velociraptor, Allosaurus, Acrocanthosaurus, and Giganotosaurus.

These predators fed on other dinosaurs. They used their impressive strength to chase down their targets. Once overcome, they went in for the kill. These theropods most likely used strategic tactics when hunting. This includes ambushing unsuspecting animals. They might have also used deception to catch their prey off guard.

The fossil record gives us evidence of how effective these carnivores were at catching their dinner. Scientists have found many dinosaur fossils with bite marks from other dinosaurs. They have also discovered dinosaur bones that show signs of having been scavenged by carnivores. These dinosaur predators were excellent hunters. Their appetites and hunting abilities likely shaped their ecosystems.



Skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex



Today's archeology has provided valuable insight into prehistoric carnivores. Carnivorous dinosaurs were often large beasts. Fossilized remains show that some carnivorous dinosaurs had heads up to 5 feet in length. They could have weighed up to 9 tons. These records also suggest that they had long tails. These tails might have been used for balance while running. They might also have been stretched out behind them when swimming. Many carnivores also boasted horns, crests, or spikes on their skulls. These attributes may have been used for protection or intimidation. Modern archeology has helped us discover a variety of prehistoric carnivorous dinosaurs.

Carnivorous dinosaurs were fearsome hunters. Their fierce appetites and appearances have left behind a legacy. That legacy is still being studied today. Modern archeology allows us to better understand these ancient beasts. Through this research, we are able to get new insights into these incredible animals. With that research, we can also learn more about our world at large.



The fossilized remains of a Tyrannosaurus Rex tooth



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Carnivorous dinosaurs were some of the most successful hunters ever to roam the Earth. They belonged to a group called theropods. This group included both two and four-legged species. Many of these dinosaur predators had sharp claws and teeth. These traits allowed them to tear into their prey with ease. Some of the most famous carnivores include Tyrannosaurus Rex, Velociraptor, Allosaurus, Acrocanthosaurus, and Giganotosaurus.

These powerful predators fed on other dinosaurs like hadrosaurs, sauropods, and ceratopsians. They used their impressive strength and agility to chase down their targets before going in for the kill. In addition to running down prey, some of these theropods may have even employed strategy in their hunts. They most likely used tactics like ambushing unsuspecting animals or using deception to catch them off guard.

The fossil record gives us evidence of how effective these carnivores were at catching their dinner. Scientists have found many instances of dinosaurs with bite marks from other dinosaurs. They have also discovered dinosaur bones that show signs of having been scavenged by carnivores. From this evidence, we can conclude that these dinosaur predators were excellent hunters. Their appetites and hunting abilities likely shaped their ecosystems in powerful ways.



Skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex



Today's archeology has also provided insights into other aspects of these animals' lives. Carnivorous dinosaurs were often large and impressive beasts. Fossilized remains show that some of the larger carnivorous dinosaurs had heads up to 5 feet in length. They could have weighed up to 9 tons. These records also suggest that they had long tails. These tails might have been used for balance while running or stretching out behind them when swimming. Many carnivores also boasted horns, crests, or spikes on their skulls. These attributes may have been used for protection or intimidation. Through modern archeology, we have discovered an impressive variety of prehistoric carnivorous dinosaurs that were once active predators on the Earth.

Carnivorous dinosaurs were fearsome hunters during their time on Earth. Their fierce appetites and appearances have left behind a legacy that is still being studied today. With modern archeology, we can better understand these ancient beasts. We can learn about their hunting behaviors, physical characteristics, and roles in prehistoric ecosystems. Through this research, we are able to get new insights into these incredible animals and the world at large.



The fossilized remains of a Tyrannosaurus Rex tooth

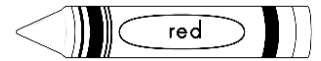


June Comprehension Questions

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. How long did dinosaurs rule the Earth?

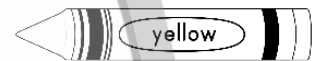
- a. 400 million years
- b. 150 million years
- c. 66 million years
- d. 37 million years



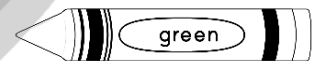
2. Describe what theropods are according to the text.



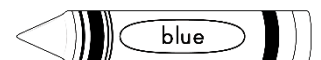
3. What are two strategies carnivorous dinosaurs may have used to hunt their prey?



4. Ryan made the following statement, "Prehistoric carnivores were not very effective hunters." Is Ryan correct or incorrect? Explain your response and justify your thinking with evidence from the text.



5. Why is studying carnivorous dinosaurs important?



PURPOSEFUL READING



Setting a purpose for reading can help readers get the most out of the text. One way to set a purpose is to use an anticipation guide. Check off the agree or disagree columns for each statement on the left BEFORE you read the text. Next, read "Prehistoric Carnivores," paying attention to information related to the statements on the guide. AFTER reading, check off the agree or disagree columns on the right based on the facts you learned.

Anticipation Guide: Carnivorous Dinosaurs

BEFORE READING

AFTER READING

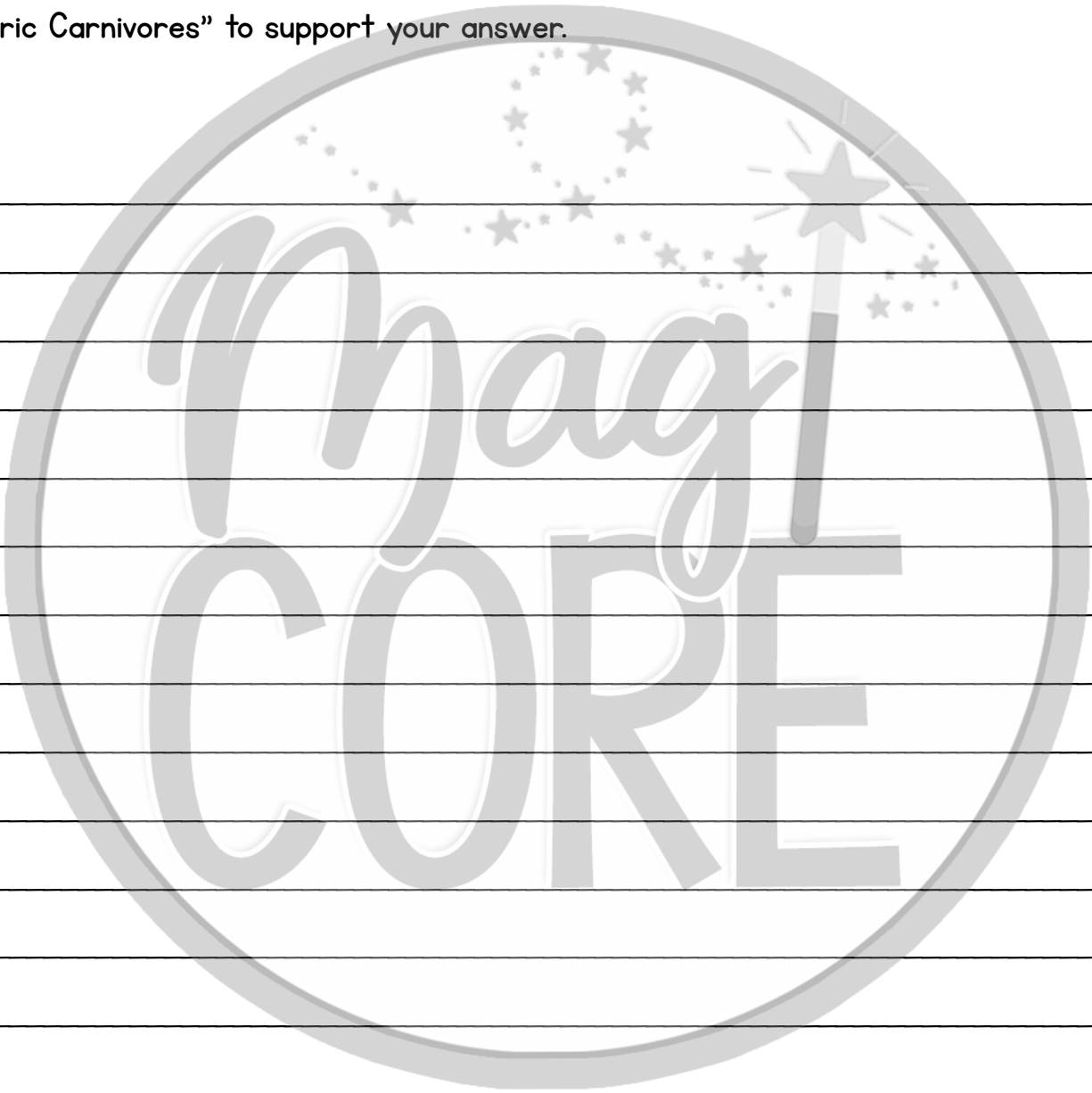
Agree	Disagree	Statement	Agree	Disagree
		1. Dinosaurs went extinct during the Cretaceous-Tertiary period about 4 million years ago.		
		2. Some prehistoric carnivores include Tyrannosaurus Rex, Velociraptor, and Giganotosaurus.		
		3. Prehistoric carnivores used their impressive strength to chase down their targets.		
		4. The appetites and hunting abilities of prehistoric carnivores likely shaped their ecosystems.		
		5. Prehistoric carnivores did not have tails.		
		6. Many prehistoric carnivores had horns, crests, or spikes on their skulls used for protection or intimidation.		

What was the most interesting thing you learned from the text?



PREHISTORIC CARNIVORES RESPONSE

Now that you have some knowledge about prehistoric carnivores, would you have wanted to live at the same time they roamed Earth? Why or why not? Use facts from the text "Prehistoric Carnivores" to support your answer.



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Good to Go



Not O.K.

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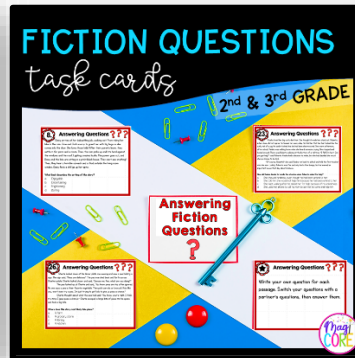


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