

Table of Contents

Australia-A	Pg. 6
Australia-B	Pg. 7
Australia-C	Pg. 8
Australia Questions	Pg. 9-11
Brazil-A	Pg. 12
Brazil-B	Pg. 13
Brazil-C	Pg. 14
Brazil Questions	Pg. 15-17
France-A	Pg. 18
France-B	Pg. 19
France-C	Pg. 20
France Questions	Pg. 21-23
Germany-A	Pg. 24
Germany-B	Pg. 25
Germany-C	Pg. 26
Germany Questions	Pg. 27-29
Greenland-A	Pg. 30
Greenland-B	Pg. 31
Greenland-C	Pg. 32
Greenland Questions	Pg. 33-35

Table of Contents-Continued

Israel-A	Pg. 36
Israel-B	Pg. 37
Israel-C	Pg. 38
Israel Questions	Pg. 39-41
Italy-A	Pg. 42
Italy-B	Pg. 43
Italy-C	Pg. 44
Italy Questions	Pg. 45-47
Kwanzaa-A	Pg. 48
Kwanzaa-B	Pg. 49
Kwanzaa-C	Pg. 50
Kwanzaa Questions	Pg. 51-53
Mexico-A	Pg. 54
Mexico-B	Pg. 55
Mexico-C	Pg. 56
Mexico Questions	Pg. 57-59
Sweden-A	Pg. 60
Sweden-B	Pg. 61
Sweden-C	Pg. 62
Sweden Questions	Pg. 63-65

Spain-A	Pg. 66
Spain-B	Pg. 67
Spain-C	Pg. 68
Spain Questions	Pg. 69-71
Answer Keys	Pg. 72

This product was designed to give my students practice comprehending nonfiction text through “close readings”. I love teaching through the holidays, so I’ve created a way to integrate reading with learning about holidays around the world.

This is not a “how to” guide for close reading. Instead, this product contains ten passages that can be used for close reading practice. There are three different versions of each passage, so you will have similar content for students on, above, and below grade level. I originally leveled each passage using the Lexile Analyzer, but due to copyright laws, I’ve removed the Lexile numbers. Passage A is written at fourth and fifth grade reading level. Passage B is written at a third grade reading level, and Passage C is written at a second grade reading level.

Each passage comes with three sets of close reading directions and questions. With each read, students will be asked to highlight and make notes in the text and will be asked questions that become more challenging with each read. I have included answer keys for the 1st and 2nd set of questions only, since answers will vary greatly for the third set of questions.

*Be sure to pick up a FREE close read activity for Christmas in the United States [here!](#)

Reading Levels Conversion Chart

Grade Level	Lexile	Fountas & Pinnell	DRA
1 st	up to 300	E	8
1 st	up to 300	F	10
1 st	up to 300	G	12
1 st	80-450	H	14
1 st	80-450	I	16
1 st & 2 nd	80-450	J	18
2 nd	501-550	K	20
2 nd	551-600	L	24
2 nd	551-650	M	28
3 rd	520-730	N	30
3 rd	520-770	O	34
3 rd	520-820	P	38
4 th	740-900	Q	40
4 th	740-940	R	40
5 th	830-1010	S	40
5 th	830-1010	T	40
5 th	830-1010	U-W	50
6 th	925-1070	W+	
7 th	970-1120	W+	

Australia

It is hard to believe that in Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of summer! Since Australia is in the southern hemisphere, it is summertime during December. In Australia, it is not unusual to have Christmas Day near 100 degrees. The warm weather allows Australians to enjoy the tradition of Carols by Candlelight. This tradition is held every year on Christmas Eve. Thousands of people gather outdoors in large cities to light candles and sing their favorite Christmas songs. Many of the words to Christmas songs have been changed from talking about snow to native Australian words.

Similar to the United States, Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and decorate their houses with Christmas trees and lights. Australians also decorate their houses with bunches of 'Christmas Bush', a native Australian tree with small green leaves and cream colored flowers. Most families try to be home together for Christmas. A traditional meal includes turkey, ham, and pork. A flaming Christmas plum pudding is often served for dessert.

Local legend says that when Santa gets to Australia, he gives the reindeer a rest and uses kangaroos instead of his reindeer. He also changes his winter clothes for clothing made for hot weather.



Christmas Bush

Australia

In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of summer! Australia is in the southern hemisphere, so it is summertime during December. It can be around 100 degrees on Christmas Day. The warm weather lets Australians enjoy the tradition of Carols by Candlelight. This event takes place on Christmas Eve. Thousands of people meet outdoors in large cities to light candles and sing their favorite Christmas songs. Many of the words to Christmas songs have been changed from talking about snow to Australian words.

Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and decorate their houses with Christmas trees and lights. Australians also decorate their houses with 'Christmas Bush'. This is a native Australian tree with small green leaves and cream colored flowers. Most families try to be home together for Christmas. A common meal includes turkey, ham, and pork. A flaming Christmas plum pudding is often served for dessert.

Some people say that when Santa gets to Australia, he has to make many changes. He gives the reindeer a rest and uses kangaroos instead of reindeer. He also changes his winter clothes for clothing made for hot weather. Some people even say that Santa surfs in to Australia.



Christmas Bush

Australia

In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of summer! It can be around 100 degrees on Christmas Day. The warm weather lets Australians have many special traditions. A favorite, is Carols by Candlelight. This takes place on Christmas Eve. People meet in large cities to light candles. They also sing their favorite Christmas songs.

Australians hang wreaths on their front doors and decorate their houses with Christmas trees and lights. Australians also decorate their homes with Christmas Bush. This is a tree with small green leaves and cream colored flowers. Most families try to be home together for Christmas. A meal includes turkey, ham, and pork. A Christmas plum pudding is often served for dessert.

When Santa gets to Australia, he gives the reindeer a rest and uses kangaroos instead of his reindeer. He also changes his winter clothes for clothing made for hot weather. Some people even say that Santa surfs in to Australia.



Christmas Bush

Name_____

Date_____

Australia

1st
Read

- Read the entire passage.
 - Write any interesting observations or notes in the left column.
 - Write any questions you have about the text in the right column.
- Answer the first four questions. When you answer a question, be sure to write the question number beside the text evidence you used to answer the question.

1. What is the text mostly about? _____

2. When does Carols by Candlelight take place?

3. What dish is often served for dessert? _____

4. What might Santa use instead of reindeer? _____

Name_____

Date_____

Australia

2nd
Read

- Reread the entire passage.
- Highlight 3-5 key words.
- Circle any words that you do not know.
- Answer the next three questions. When you answer a question, be sure to write the question number beside the text evidence you used to answer the question.

1. What nonfiction text feature did the author use, and how did it help you understand the text?

2. Name a key word you highlighted. Why did you select that word?

3. What is the main purpose of the 2nd paragraph?

Name_____

Date_____

Australia

3rd
Read

- Reread the entire passage.
- Write a small C beside ideas you could make a connection with.
- Write a + where you were able to add new information to your existing knowledge.
- Answer the last question in paragraph form.

- I. How is Christmas in Australia similar and different to Christmas where you live?



Interactive Notebook-Table of Contents

Teacher Notes	Pg. 3
Australia Example and Directions	Pg. 4
Australia Templates	Pg. 5-6
Brazil Example and Directions	Pg. 7
Brazil Templates	Pg. 8-11
France Example and Directions	Pg. 12
France Templates	Pg. 13-16
Germany Example and Directions	Pg. 17
Germany Templates	Pg. 18-20
Greenland Example and Directions	Pg. 21
Greenland Templates	Pg. 22-23
Israel Example and Directions	Pg. 24
Israel Templates	Pg. 25-28
Italy Example and Directions	Pg. 29
Italy Templates	Pg. 30-33
Kwanzaa Example and Directions	Pg. 34
Kwanzaa Templates	Pg. 35-38
Mexico Example and Directions	Pg. 39
Mexico Templates	Pg. 40-43
Sweden Example and Directions	Pg. 44
Sweden Templates	Pg. 45-46
Spain Example and Directions	Pg. 47
Spain Templates	Pg. 48-51
United States Example and Directions	Pg. 52
United States Templates	Pg. 53-54

HOLIDAYS AROUND the WORLD

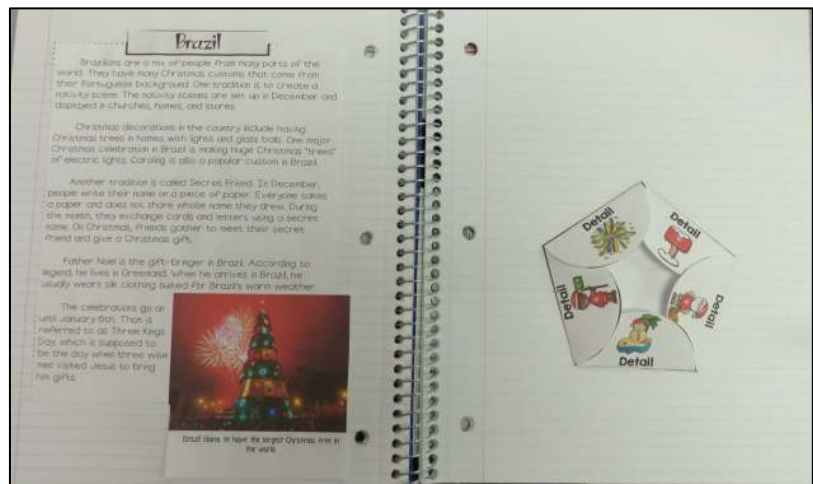
Interactive Notebook

Last year I created my Holidays Around the World Close Reading packet, and my students and I loved learning about reading through the holiday reading passages and questions. In fact, we enjoyed the unit so much I wanted to add even more to it! I've created this Holidays Around the World Interactive Notebook product to compliment the Holidays Around the World Close Reading packet. Each unit can be used independently from the other, but they do make an amazing companion product! I will use the leveled reading passage for my students' information for their interactive notebook entries.

In this pack, there is one interactive notebook entry for each of the countries listed below. I've organized the activities, so there is at least one activity for each of the 10 Reading Standards for Informational Text. These do not need to be completed in any order, and you may use any informational text or resource for the entries. After my students complete their close reading activity, I may have them glue their reading passage to the left side of their interactive notebook to use as a reference. I realize that some of the skills may be new skills for students, so I've included two versions of some of the activities that will give you more flexibility to meet your classroom needs. I've included a color and black and white version of each activity.

Countries Included:

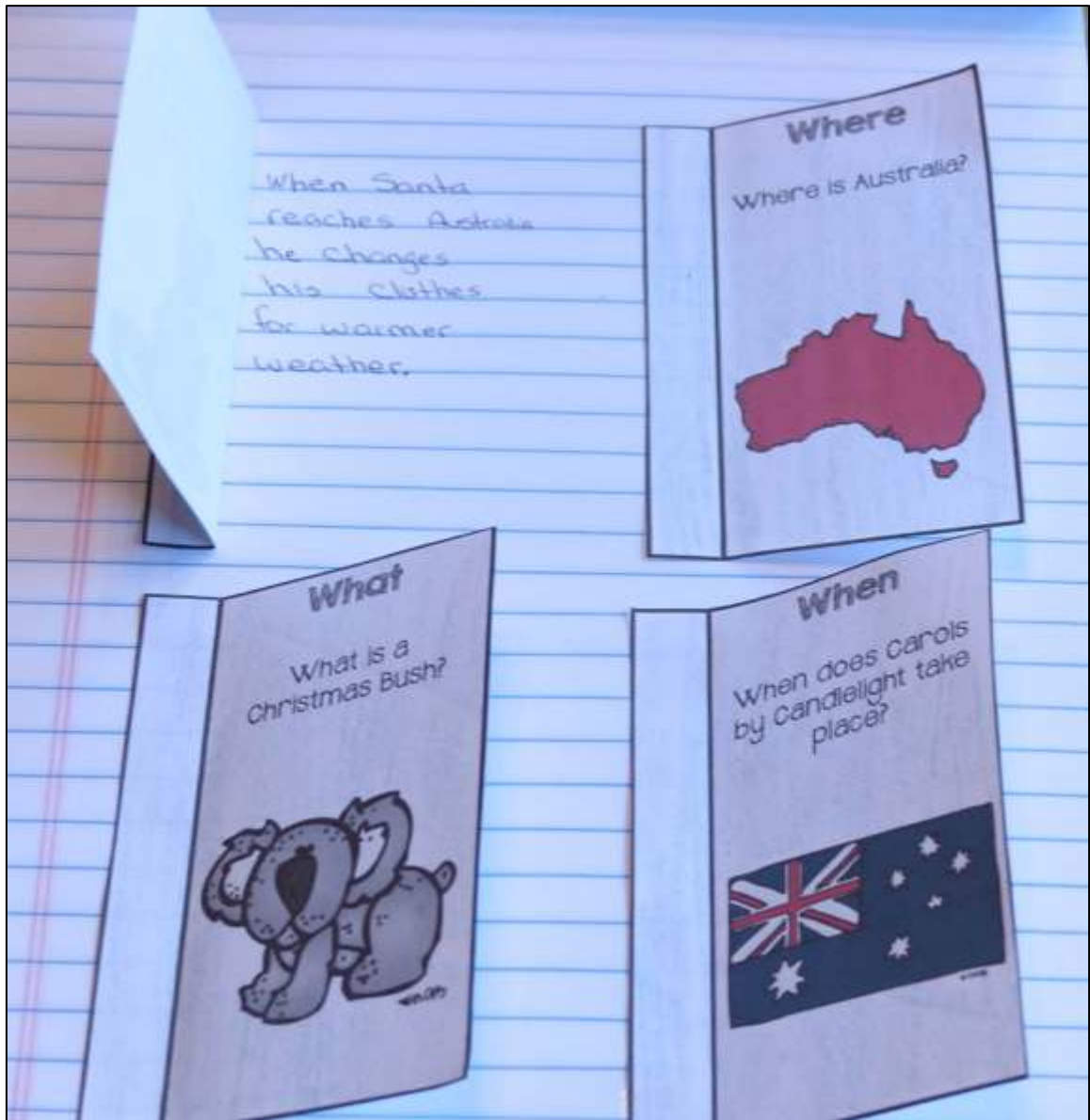
- Australia
- Brazil
- France
- Germany
- Greenland
- Israel
- Italy
- Kwanzaa
- Mexico
- Sweden
- Spain
- United States



Australia-Answering Questions With Text Evidence

Students should use text evidence to answer the questions on the outside of the flaps

Cut each flap out and glue down the left tab.



Australia-ANSWERING Questions With text Evidence

Who

Who changes his winter clothes for clothing made for hot weather?



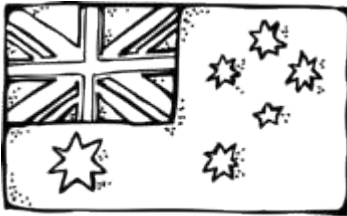
What

What is a Christmas Bush?



When

When does Carols by Candlelight take place?



Where

Where is Australia?



Australia-Answering Questions With text Evidence

Who

Who changes his winter clothes for clothing made for hot weather?



What

What is a Christmas Bush?



When

When does Carols by Candlelight take place?



Where

Where is Australia?



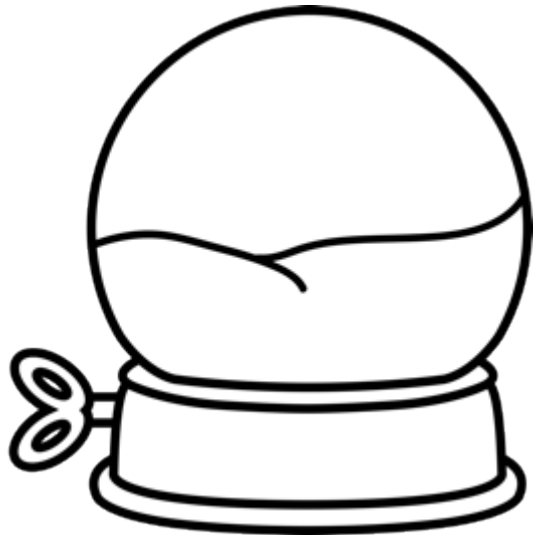
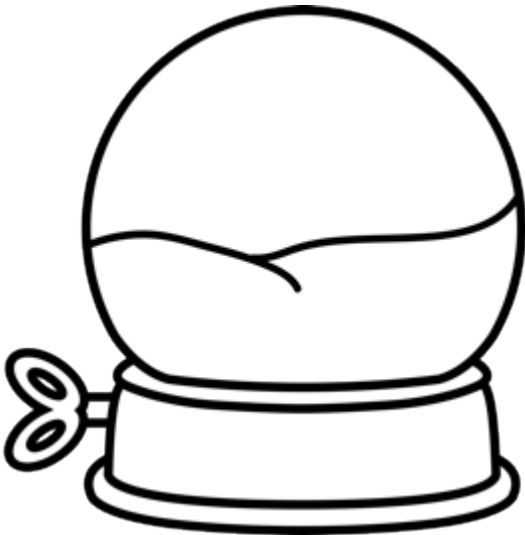
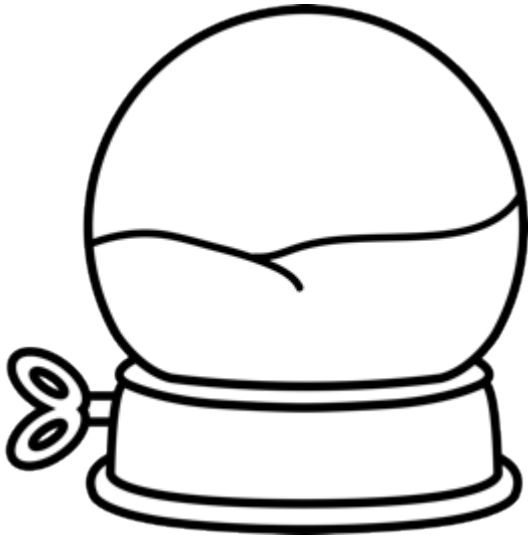
Greenland-Content Vocabulary

Students should find six new words they see while they are reading. They should write the words on the snow globe. Students will glue the base of the snow globe to their interactive notebook and write the definition of the word underneath the snow globe.

Optional-choose six key words for the whole class to add to their interactive notebook. This could be completed for any country.



Greenland-Content Vocabulary



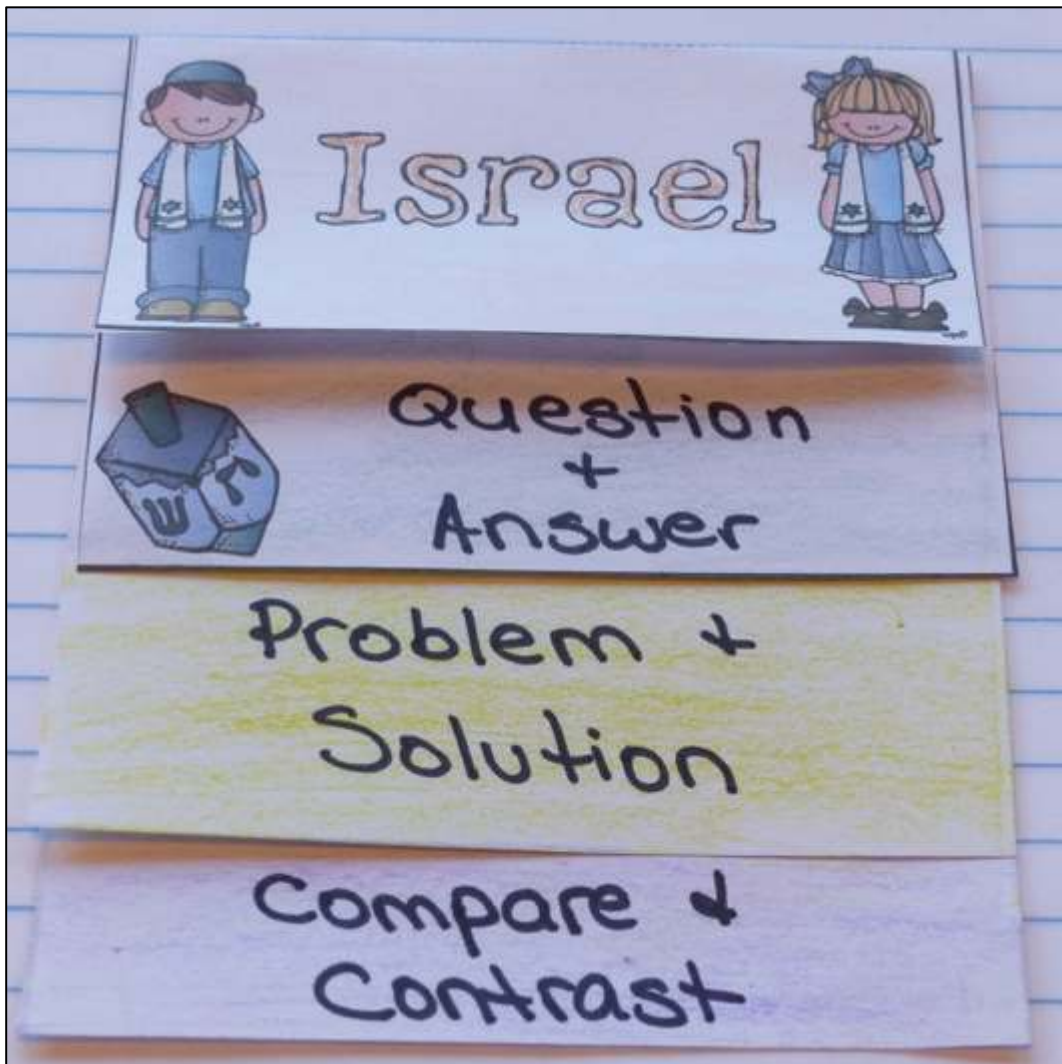
Greenland-Content Vocabulary



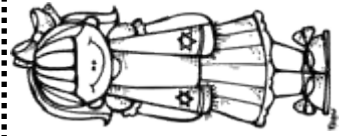
Israel-Text Structure

Option 1-Underneath each tab, students should explain whether or not they saw examples of question & answer, problem & solution, and compare & contrast text structures. If they did see examples, they should explain what they saw using text evidence. If they did not see that type of text structure, they should explain how the text would be different if that structure had been used.

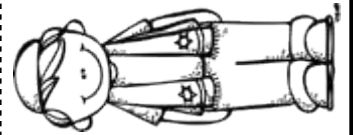
Option 2-Students should write something they learned about Hanukkah underneath each tab.



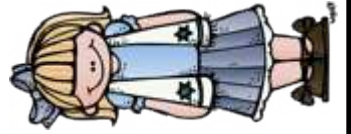
Israel-Text Structure



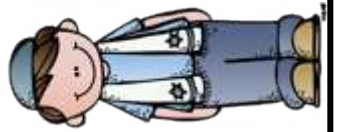
Israel



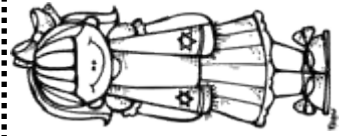
Israel-Text Structure



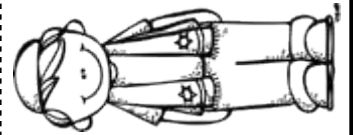
Israel



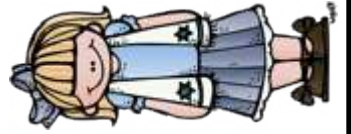
Israel- What I learned



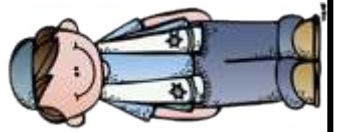
Israel



Israel-What I learned



Israel



Kwanzaa-Point Looking at Illustrations

Option 1-Underneath the top tab, students should explain how they used illustrations in the text. Underneath the second tab, students should draw an illustration that could be added to the text.

Option 2-Some of the vocabulary has been simplified. Underneath the top flap, students should write something they learned about Kwanzaa. Underneath the bottom flap, students should draw a picture to represent Kwanzaa.

