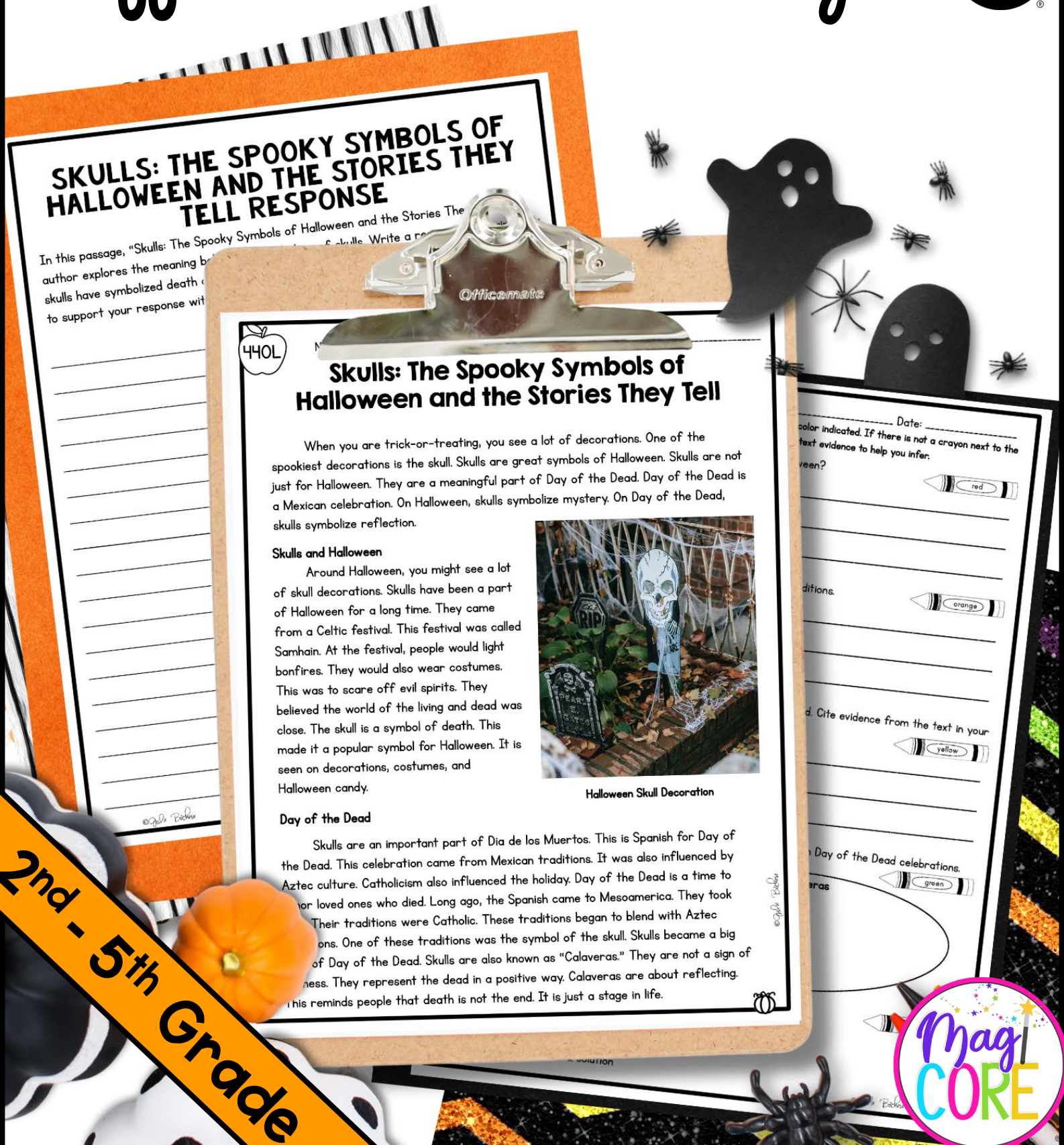
HALLOWEEN SYMBOLS

Differentiated Passages

LEXILE®



2nd - 5th Grade

MagiCORE

HALLOWEEN SYMBOLS

2nd- 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 differentiated leveled passages in the 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th Grade Text Complexity Bands (the range for 2nd-3rd is 420-820 and 4th-5th grade is 740-1010). Each passage is available on three levels and comes with general comprehension questions and a reading response activity.

1. The Magical Journey of the Jack-O'-Lantern: From Turnips to Pumpkins (420L, 870L, 990L)
2. Costumes: A Spook-tacular Symbol of Halloween (460L, 820L, 980L)
3. How Spiderwebs Weave into Halloween's Mystique (510L, 830L, 1000L)
4. The Wise Ones (470L, 790L, 950L)
5. The Ultimate Trick-or-Treaters Guidebook (410L, 730L, 910L)
6. The Full Story of the Full Moon (440L, 760L, 1010L)
7. Candy Corn: The Halloween Horror (460L, 780L, 1000L)
8. The Mystery and Marvel of Bats: Unsung Heroes of the Ecosystem and Stars of Halloween (470L, 780L, 1010L)
9. The Love-Hate History of the Black Cat (480L, 740L, 1000L)
10. Skulls: The Spooky Symbol of Halloween and the Stories They Tell (440L, 800L, 1000L)

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."

410L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ultimate Trick-or-Treaters Guidebook

Ever wondered how trick-or-treating began? This tradition began a long time ago. There are many important parts to trick-or-treating. It can be a lot of fun. It is always important to stay safe.

Guide Table of Contents

1. Fascinating Beginnings
2. Why We Love It
3. Gear Up for Adventure
4. What to Expect
5. Mastering Proper Etiquette
6. Navigating Challenges
7. Staying Spooktacularly Safe



Trick-or-Treaters ready for a fun-filed Halloween

The Fascinating Beginnings

Long ago, Halloween was believed to be a time when spirits came to Earth. People would leave out treats to keep the spirits happy. The spirits are just legends now. But the tradition of giving treats lives on. It's a fun way for kids to celebrate Halloween. Children proudly wear costumes and collect candy!

Why We Love It

Costumes allow people to be whatever they want. In costume, kids journey from house to house. Kids are surrounded by friends and family. Trick-or-treating is more than a quest for candy. It's a tradition. Trick-or-treating unites communities. It turns streets into Halloween wonderlands. Families, friends, and neighbors come together. People showcase their creativity. Everyone gets to dress up and pretend for a night.

©Jodi Bachus

Gear Up for Adventure

Preparing for trick-or-treating is important. First, select a costume. Your costume should be something you love. Then, grab a treat bag. You can also use a bucket. Don't forget to bring a flashlight! This keeps you visible and safe. Plan your route ahead of time. That way, you won't waste time.

What to Expect

On the big night, you'll head out. Start by ringing doorbells. Then, shout, "trick or treat!" Treats will be showered upon you. You can collect it all in your bag. Some houses may have spooky decorations. Some might even have special effects! It's like stepping into a Halloween wonderland!

Mastering Proper Etiquette

Even on Halloween, manners matter. Always remember to say "thank you" after being given a treat. You might see a bowl that says, "Take One." Only take one. You want to leave some for others. Being polite and respectful makes Halloween fun for everyone.

Navigating Challenges

Some houses may not give treats. That's perfectly okay. Simply move on to the next house.

Staying Spooktacularly Safe

Safety is important when trick-or-treating. With candy everywhere, it's easy to forget about being safe. Staying safe makes Halloween fun for everyone. First, stick together. Always trick-or-treat with an adult or a group. When you're crossing roads and driveways, watch for cars. Make yourself visible to cars by using glow sticks or flashlights. Lastly, have an adult check your candy. This is to make sure it's safe. Many children have food allergies. It's important for an adult to check the candy's ingredients before eating it.

Trick-or-treating is a magical part of Halloween. It allows you to transform into something else for a night. This tradition has been passed down through generations. Trick-or-treating fills the holiday with excitement. It is fun to get candy. But remember your manners and how to be safe.

©Jodi Bachus

730L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ultimate Trick-or-Treaters Guidebook

Ever wondered how Trick-or-Treating began? This fun tradition began a long time ago. There are many important tips you can take to make your trick-or-treating experience fun and safe.

Guide Table of Contents

1. Fascinating Beginnings
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6. Navigating Challenges
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Trick-or-Treaters ready for a fun-filed Halloween

The Fascinating Beginnings

Long ago, Halloween was believed to be a time when spirits wandered the Earth. To keep these spirits content, people would leave out treats. Although the spirits may be legends now, the tradition of giving treats lives on. It's a delightful way for kids to celebrate Halloween. Children proudly wear their costumes and gather some delicious candy!

Why We Love It

On Halloween, you can wear whatever costume you want. Costumes are a great part of trick-or-treating. Dressed in your incredible costume, you journey from house to house with friends and family. Trick-or-treating is more than just a quest for candy. It's a tradition that unites communities. It turns ordinary streets into magical Halloween wonderlands. Families, friends, and neighbors come together to showcase their creativity. Everyone gets to dress up and pretend for a night.

©Jodi Bachus

Gear Up for Adventure

Preparing for trick-or-treating is like preparing for a thrilling adventure. First, select a costume that fills you with joy. Then, grab a treat bag or bucket. Don't forget to bring a flashlight or glow sticks to keep you visible and safe. Planning your route beforehand will help you be efficient when trick-or-treating.

What to Expect

On the big night, you'll embark on a journey. You should start by ringing doorbells and shouting, "trick or treat!" When a door opens, treats will be showered upon you and collected in your bag. Some houses may even have spine-chilling decorations and special effects! It's like stepping into a Halloween wonderland!

Mastering Proper Etiquette

Even on Halloween, manners matter. Always remember to say "thank you" after being given a treat. If you encounter a bowl that states "Take one," remember to only take one. You want to leave some for others. Being polite and respectful makes the adventure more enjoyable for everyone involved.

Navigating Challenges

You may stumble upon houses with no treats. There will also be houses that aren't participating. That's perfectly okay. Simply move on to the next house.

Staying Spooktacularly Safe

An important part of trick-or-treating is sometimes forgotten – safety. With candy being handed out at each door, it's easy to forget about taking precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween. First and foremost, stick together. Always trick-or-treat with an adult or a group. When you're crossing roads and driveways, it's important to watch out for cars. Illuminating your path with fun glow sticks or flashlights will make you visible to vehicles. Lastly, have an adult inspect your candy. This is to guarantee its safety. Many children have food allergies. It's important for an adult to check the candy's ingredients before eating it.

Trick-or-treating is a magical part of Halloween that allows you to transform into something else for a night. This tradition has been passed down through generations. Trick-or-treating fills the holiday with excitement and delicious treats. So, put on your fantastic costume, remember your manners, and venture out into the enchanting world of Halloween while staying safe.

©Julie Bochoso

910L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ultimate Trick-or-Treaters Guidebook

Ever wondered how Trick-or-treating began? This fun tradition began a long time ago. There are many important tips you can take to make your trick-or-treating experience fun and safe.

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Trick-or-Treaters ready for a fun-filed Halloween

The Fascinating Beginnings

Long ago, Halloween was believed to be a time when spirits wandered the Earth. To keep these spirits content, people would leave out treats. Although the spirits may be mere legends now, the tradition of giving treats lives on. It's a delightful way for kids to celebrate Halloween, proudly flaunt their costumes, and, of course, gather some delectable candy!

Why We Love It

On Halloween, you can wear whatever costume you want. Costumes are a great part of trick-or-treating. Dressed in your incredible costume, you journey from house to house with friends and family, all the while receiving candy surprises along the way. However, trick-or-treating is more than just a quest for candy. It's a tradition that unites communities, turning ordinary streets into magical Halloween wonderlands. Families, friends, and neighbors come together to showcase their creativity, as everyone gets to dress up and pretend for a night. It can be a night of endless fun and excitement.

Gear Up for Adventure

Preparing for trick-or-treating is like preparing for a thrilling escapade. First, select a costume that fills you with joy. Then, grab a treat bag or bucket; don't forget to bring a flashlight or glow sticks to keep you visible and safe. Planning your route beforehand will help you efficiently visit the most fruitful candy spots!

©Jodi Bachus

What to Expect

On the big night, you'll embark on a journey, ringing doorbells and shouting, "trick or treat!" When a door opens, treats will be showered upon you and collected in your bag. Some houses may even have spine-chilling decorations and special effects; it's like stepping into a Halloween wonderland!

Mastering Proper Etiquette

Even on Halloween, manners matter. Always remember to say "thank you" to your sweet treat bestowers. If you encounter a bowl that states "Take one," remember to only take one and leave some for others. Being polite and respectful makes the adventure more enjoyable for everyone involved.

Navigating Challenges

You may stumble upon houses with no treats or those that aren't participating. That's perfectly okay; simply move on to the next house. For kids with food allergies, keep an eye out for teal-colored pumpkins. These houses offer non-food treats like stickers and toys.

Staying Spooktacularly Safe

One crucial aspect of trick-or-treating often goes unnoticed – safety. With candy being handed out at each door, it's easy to forget about taking precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween. First and foremost, stick together. Always trick-or-treat with an adult or a group. Additionally, make yourself visible. Since you'll be crossing roads and driveways, it's important to watch out for cars. Illuminating your path with fun glow sticks or carrying flashlights will ensure that you're visible to passing vehicles. Lastly, have an adult inspect your candy to guarantee its safety. Many children have food allergies, so it's vital for an adult to check the candy's ingredients before indulging.

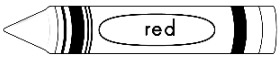
Trick-or-treating is a magical part of Halloween that allows you to transform into someone–or something–else for a night. This tradition has been passed down through generations, filling the holiday with excitement and delicious treats. So, put on your fantastic costume, remember your manners, and venture out into the enchanting world of Halloween while staying safe.

©Julie Bochoso

Halloween Symbols Name: _____ Date: _____

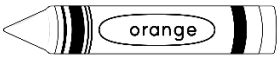
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. Use the table of contents: What section comes after *Mastering Proper Etiquette*?



   a. Staying Spooktacularly Safe
   b. What to Expect
   c. Why We Love It
   d. Navigating Challenges

2. What are some of the reasons why the author believes people love trick-or-treating?



_____

_____

_____

3. What is the main idea of the section with the heading, "*Gear Up for Adventure*"? Use evidence from the section to support your response.

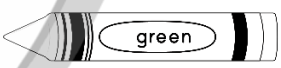


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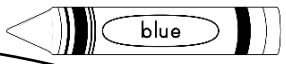
4. Read this section from the text: "*When a door opens, treats will be showered upon you.*" What does the author mean when they write, "*treats will be showered upon you.*"?

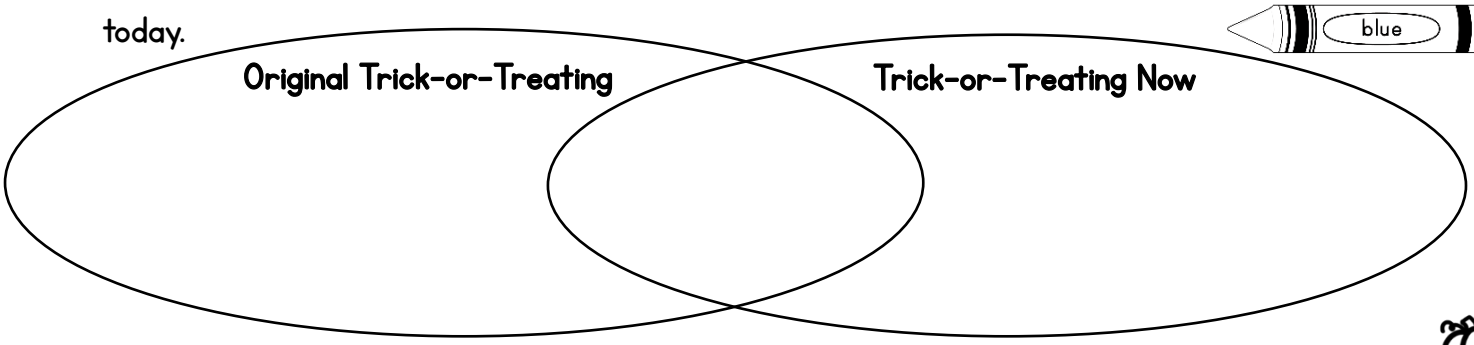


   a. Candy will rain down from the sky.
   b. You will receive a significant amount of candy.
   c. Someone will spray you with a hose.
   d. Candy will be thrown at you.

What kind of literary device is the author using? _____

5. Compare and contrast the original form of trick-or-treating with how people trick-or-treat today.

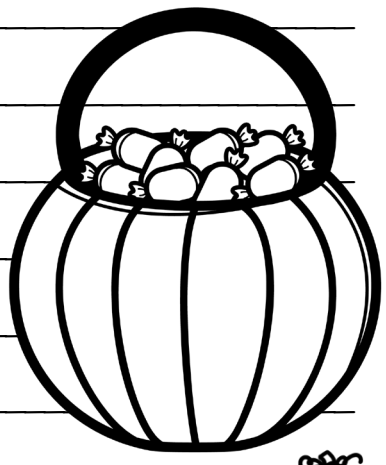




©Jodi Bachus

THE ULTIMATE TRICK-OR-TREATERS GUIDEBOOK RESPONSE

In this passage, the author uses text features to organize the text. Write a response examining two different text features the author uses in this passage. How does the use of these text features impact the text?



©Julie Bochoso

440L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Full Story of The Full Moon

People all over the world see the same sky. They admire the full moon. It's like a big nightlight that turns on once a month. Why does the moon look so big? What makes it so bright? People throughout history have been interested in the moon.

There is a scientific reason for the full moon. Imagine Earth and the moon are playing a game of tag. The moon is always running around Earth. This is called an "orbit." Eventually, the moon gets to a specific spot. Then the sun can light up its whole face. This light lets us see the whole moon from Earth. The moon is bright and shiny. It is very beautiful to look at.



A pristine full moon



A full moon being utilized in a Happy Halloween sign

Long ago, people didn't know about orbits. They didn't have telescopes. They made up stories about the full moon. Some cultures believed the full moon was a gift from the gods. Others thought it meant magical creatures could come out. Some people even thought the full moon could make you go a little "loony." This is where we get the word "lunatic" from!

©Julie Bacheor

The moon didn't just inspire stories. It was important for everyday life. People used the moon to know when to plant crops. They also used it to understand the ocean tides. The moon does affect the tides. The moon has a thing called "gravity." Gravity pulls on Earth's oceans. This pull creates high and low tides. In a way, the moon really does have a special power over Earth!



The low tide caused many boats to run aground in the marina

We know a lot about the moon's cycles. Scientists can explain how orbits work. But the full moon hasn't lost its magic. Many people still think the full moon is special. Some might wish on it. Some might look at the moon through telescopes. Some people might watch the full moon. It makes them wonder about the universe.

The full moon is a beautiful site. It is mysterious. The full moon reminds us how wonderful our world and universe truly are.

©Julie Bochoso

760L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Full Story of The Full Moon

Once upon a time, and still today, people all over the world look up at the sky and marvel at the full moon. It's like a big, glowing nightlight that turns on once a month. But have you ever wondered why the moon looks so big and bright sometimes and why people throughout history have been so fascinated by it?

There is scientific reasoning behind the full moon. Imagine Earth and the moon playing a game of cosmic tag. The moon is always running around Earth in what's called an "orbit." The moon gets to a spot where the sun can light up its whole face and we can see it from Earth. The moon looks bright and shiny from Earth. A full moon is a beautiful sight to look at.



A pristine full moon



A full moon being utilized in a Happy Halloween sign

Long before people understood orbits or had telescopes, they made up stories about the full moon. Some believed the full moon was a gift from the gods. Others thought it was a time when magical creatures would come out to play. In some places, people even thought the full moon could make you go a little "loony." This is where we get the word "lunatic" from!

©Julia Bochoso

The moon didn't just inspire stories. It was important for everyday life. People used the moon to know when to plant crops. They also used it to tell when the tides would be high or low. They weren't entirely wrong about the moon affecting the tides. The moon has a thing called "gravity." Gravity pulls on Earth's oceans. This pull creates high and low tides. In a way, the moon really does have a special power over Earth!



The low tide caused many boats to run aground in the marina

We know a lot about the moon's cycles. Scientists can explain how orbits work. But the full moon hasn't lost its magic. Many people still feel that the full moon is a special time. Some might make wishes. Some might look at the moon through telescopes. Some people might just sit and wonder about the mysteries of the universe.

The full moon is a dazzling sight that can make your imagination soar. It's a beautiful part of nature that reminds us how wonderful our world, and even our universe, truly is.

©Julie Bochoso

1010L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Full Story of The Full Moon

Once upon a time, and still today, people all over the world look up at the sky and marvel at the full moon. It's like a big, glowing nightlight that turns on once a month. But have you ever wondered why the moon looks so big and bright sometimes and why people throughout history have been so fascinated by it?

There is a scientific explanation for the full moon. Imagine Earth and the moon playing a game of cosmic tag; the moon is always running around Earth in an orbit. The moon gets to a spot where the sun can light up its whole face and we can see it from Earth. From Earth, the moon looks bright and shiny; it is truly a beautiful sight.



A pristine full moon



A full moon being utilized in a Happy Halloween sign

Long before people understood orbits or even had telescopes, they made up wonderful stories about the full moon. Some believed the full moon was a gift from the gods. Others thought it was a time when magical creatures like werewolves would come out to play. In some places, people even thought the full moon could make you go a little, well, "loony," which is where we get the word "lunatic" from!

©Julie Bochorse

The moon didn't merely serve as a muse for tales and myths; it played a critical role in daily existence as well. Individuals relied on lunar cycles to determine optimal times for agricultural activities like planting crops, as well as to predict tidal fluctuations. Intriguingly, the ancients were quite accurate in associating the moon with tides. The moon possesses a force known as "gravity," which exerts a gravitational pull on Earth's oceans. This interaction is actually responsible for the occurrence of high and low tides. Consequently, one could argue that the moon does indeed wield a unique form of influence over our planet!



The low tide caused many boats to run aground in the marina

Even though we now know a lot about the moon's cycles, and scientists can explain how orbits work, the full moon hasn't lost its magic. Many people still feel that the full moon is a special time. Some might make wishes, some might look at the moon through telescopes, and some might just sit and wonder about the mysteries of the universe.

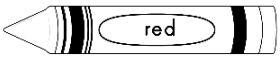
The full moon is a dazzling sight that can make your imagination soar. It's a beautiful part of nature that reminds us how wonderful our world, and even our universe, truly is.

©Julie Bochoso

Halloween Symbols Name: _____ Date: _____

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. Describe what it means when the moon "orbits" the Earth.

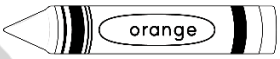


_____

_____

_____

2. What is the purpose of paragraph 3? Why did the author include this paragraph? Support your response with details from the text.



_____

_____

_____

3. Summarize the impact the full moon has on the ocean tides.

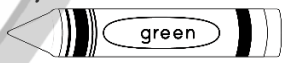


_____

_____

_____

4. Read this section from the text: *"But the full moon hasn't lost its magic. Many people still think the full moon is special."* What can you determine based on these details?



   a. The author wants the reader to focus on the scientific explanation behind the full moon.
   b. The author wants the reader to forget about the moon.
   c. The author wants the reader to remember the magical powers the moon has.
   d. The author wants the reader to appreciate the moon for more than just scientific reasons.

5. Why is the full moon a powerful symbol of Halloween? How does the full moon connect to the themes of Halloween? Support your response with details from the text.



_____

_____

_____

©Julie Bachus

THE FULL STORY OF THE FULL MOON RESPONSE

Examine the ancient beliefs about the moon presented in the passage. Write a response making an inference about how these original beliefs might have shaped the importance and attention that has been placed on the moon through time.



©Julia Bachosa

470L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mystery and Marvel of Bats: Unsung Heroes of the Ecosystem and Stars of Halloween

Bats are spooky symbols of Halloween. Bats are in decorations. Bats are used in Halloween costumes. Sometimes people see them fly across the night sky. Bats are an important part of our ecosystem. They make the perfect symbol for Halloween.

Why Bats and Halloween?

Why do bats get a special invitation to Halloween every year? Bats are thought of as mysterious. Legends link them to magical creatures. They're connected to witches and vampires. That's why they're a big part of Halloween!

Bat Habitats: More Than Just Caves



Hundreds of bats at home in a dark cave

Bats live in many types of habitats. They can be found in many parts of the world. You won't find them in deserts. Bats aren't found in polar regions either. Many people associate bats with dark caves. Bats also reside in forests and swamps. They can also be found in urban areas. Bats look for quiet spaces. Tree hollows or abandoned buildings make a good bat home. Many bats make homes under bridges. Bats choose their habitats based on many things. The temperature, humidity, and food impact their habitat.

Masters of the Night Sky: Bat Hunting Habits

Bats are masters of the night sky. They are skilled hunters. Bats use echolocation. Echolocation is when bats find their prey in the dark. Bats make a high-pitched sound wave. That sound wave hits an object. It bounces back. This helps bats "see" in the dark. Echolocation allows bats to find insects at high speeds.

©Gabi Bochoso

Bats: The Unsung Heroes of Our Ecosystem

Bats are more than Halloween symbols. They're an important part of our world. Many bats are insectivores. This means they eat insects. Some bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour! This helps control bug populations. Bug control helps humans. Not all bats eat insects. Fruit bats help to pollinate plants. They also spread seeds. This helps forest regrowth. It also helps boost food growth. Bat waste is known as "guano." It is rich in nutrients. It can help fertilize soil. That's right, even bat poop is helpful!

The Symbolism of the Bat

Bats are important to our ecosystem. They are also important symbols around the world. Bats are important in many cultures. In the United States and Europe, bats are seen as spooky. They are symbols of Halloween. Some African cultures see bats as messengers. The bat can go to the spirit world. It can return to people with messages. In China, bats are good luck. In Native American stories, bats are clever. The ancient Mayans had a bat god. He was named Camazotaz. This word means "death bat." It symbolized death, night, and sacrifice.

A Not-So-Batty Conclusion

Bats help our ecosystem. They are powerful symbols around the world. They are important to nature and culture.



Tracing a bat model to make
Halloween decorations

©Julie Bochoso

780L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mystery and Marvel of Bats: Unsung Heroes of the Ecosystem and Stars of Halloween

When it comes to classic Halloween symbols, nothing is spookier than a bat. Around Halloween, bats tend to show up a lot more. We see them in decorations, costumes, and sometimes flying across the night sky. Bats are an important part of our ecosystem. They also make the perfect symbol for our spooktacular celebrations.

Why Bats and Halloween?

First off, why do bats get a special invitation to the Halloween party every year? It's because they're often seen with things that are mysterious and nocturnal. Also, ancient legends often connect them to mystical creatures. They share connections to witches and vampires. Bats have become a popular Halloween symbol.

Bat Habitats: More Than Just Caves



Hundreds of bats at home in a dark cave

Bats are incredibly adaptable when it comes to their habitats. They can be found in many parts of the world. Except you won't find them in extreme deserts and polar regions. Many people associate bats with dark caves. Bats also reside in forests, swamps, and even urban areas. They often seek out quiet spaces like tree hollows, abandoned buildings, and under bridges for their roosts. Bats choose their habitats based on factors like temperature, humidity, and proximity to food sources.

Masters of the Night Sky: Bat Hunting Habits

When it comes to hunting, bats are true masters of the night sky. They use a method called echolocation. This method allows bats to locate their prey in the dark. Bats produce a high-pitched sound wave that bounces back after hitting an object. This helps bats "see" in complete darkness. This allows them to pinpoint the location of insects even while flying at high speeds.

©Jodi Bachus

Bats: The Unsung Heroes of Our Ecosystem

Bats are more than Halloween symbols. They're an important part of our natural world. Many bats are insectivores. This means they feast on insects. Some bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes in just one hour! This helps to control bug populations. Bug control is helpful for us humans. However, not all bats eat insects. Some, like fruit bats, help to pollinate plants and disperse seeds. This aids in forest regrowth and food crop production. Bats really are extraordinary. Even a bat's waste, known as "guano," is rich in nutrients. It can also help fertilize soil.

The Symbolism of the Bat

While bats play a crucial role in our ecosystem, they remain an important symbol in cultures around the world. In the United States and Europe, people often think of bats as spooky creatures. They connect them to haunted houses or vampires. In some African cultures, bats are viewed as messengers. They go between people and the spirit world. Their purpose is to keep a connection between the living and the supernatural. In China, bats are seen as a sign of good luck and happiness. Native American folklore sometimes shows bats as clever animals. They can teach us important lessons, similar to the coyote. The ancient Mayans had a bat god named Camazotaz. This word means "death bat." It represented death, night, and sacrifice.

A Not-So-Batty Conclusion

Bats contribute to our ecosystem. They are also powerful symbols in stories around the world. Bats are versatile creatures. They hold a unique place in both nature and culture.



Tracing a bat model to make Halloween decorations

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mystery and Marvel of Bats: Unsung Heroes of the Ecosystem and Stars of Halloween

When it comes to classic Halloween symbols, few are more recognizable than the bat. Around Halloween, bats tend to show up in decorations and costumes and are sometimes spotted jetting across the night sky. While bats serve as the perfect addition to a vampire costume, they also play a unique role in keeping our environment healthy.

Why Bats and Halloween?

First off, why do bats get a special invitation to the Halloween party every year? It's because they're often associated with things that are mysterious and nocturnal. Ancient legends often connect them to scary creatures like witches and vampires. Bats have become classic Halloween symbols.

Bat Habitats: More Than Just Caves



Hundreds of bats at home in a dark cave

Bats are incredibly adaptable when it comes to their habitats. They can be found in many parts of the world, except for extreme desert and polar regions. While many people associate bats with dark, damp caves, that's just one of the places these fascinating creatures call home. Bats also live in forests, swamps, and even urban areas. They often seek out quiet spaces like tree hollows, abandoned buildings, and under bridges for their roosts. Bats choose their habitats based on factors like temperature, humidity, and proximity to food sources.

Masters of the Night Sky: Bat Hunting Habits

When it comes to hunting, bats are true masters of the night sky. They use an extraordinary method called echolocation. This helps them to locate their prey in the dark. By emitting high-pitched sound waves that bounce back after hitting an object, bats can "see" in complete darkness. This helps them to pinpoint the location of insects even while flying at high speeds.

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Bats: The Unsung Heroes of Our Ecosystem

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The Symbolism of the Bat

While bats play an important role in our ecosystem, they remain an important symbol in cultures around the world. In the United States and Europe, people often think of bats as spooky creatures related to haunted houses or vampires. In some African cultures, bats are viewed as messengers between people and the spirit world. Their purpose is to keep a connection between the living and the supernatural. On the contrary, in China, bats are seen as a sign of good luck and happiness. Native American folklore sometimes shows bats as clever animals that teach us important lessons, similar to the coyote. The ancient Mayans had a bat god named Camazotaz, which means "death bat," who represented death, night, and sacrifice.

A Not-So-Batty Conclusion

Bats help maintain control over insect populations to keep our environment balanced. They also serve as powerful symbols in stories and beliefs around the world. These complex creatures hold a unique place in both nature and culture.

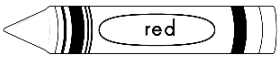


Tracing a bat model to make Halloween decorations

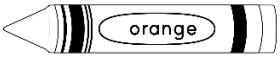
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Halloween Symbols Name: _____ Date: _____

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. What is the purpose of the section titled, *"Why Bats and Halloween?"* 

   a. To explain why bats are no longer relevant to Halloween.
   b. To explain why bats love Halloween.
   c. To demonstrate the connection bats have to Halloween.
   d. To demonstrate how Halloween had a negative impact on bats.

2. Describe the various habitats that bats live in. 

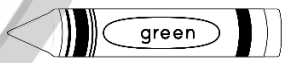
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3. Why are bats considered "true masters of the night sky"? Support your response with evidence from the text. 

Why?	Evidence from the text:

4. How might the ecosystem be negatively impacted if bats did not exist? Your inference should be supported by details in the text. 

Inference:	Evidence from the text:

5. How do bats connect to the idea of symbolism? What is their significance? Use evidence from the text to support your response. 

_____

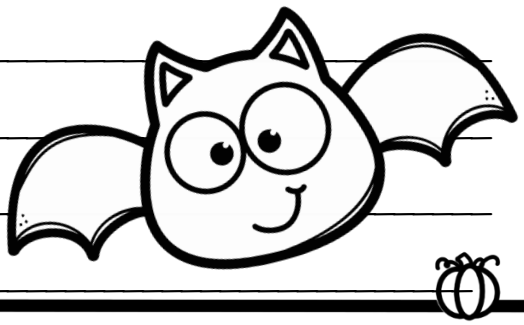
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THE MYSTERY AND MARVEL OF BATS RESPONSE

Analyze the structure of this text. The author made sure to structure the text in a specific way and utilized text features to help maintain the text's structure. Why did the author use this structure? How did the author's structural choices impact the overall effect of the text?



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Name: _____ Date: _____

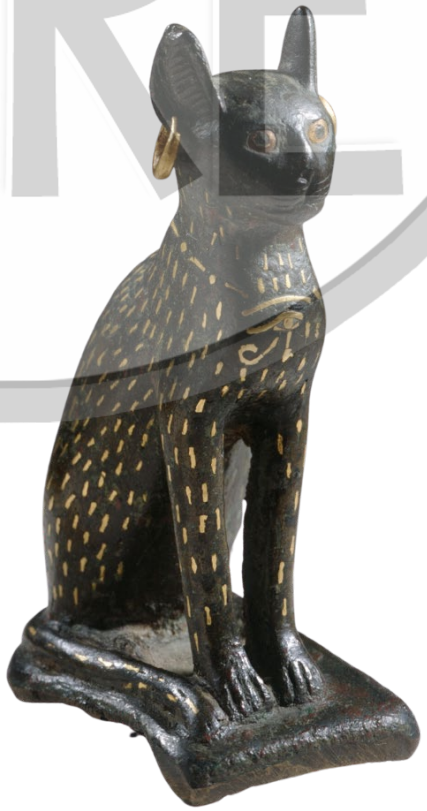
The Love-Hate History of the Black Cat

Black cats are symbols of Halloween. Black cats have symbolized many different things in history. Their symbolism has changed with different cultures. Black cats were misunderstood during the Middle Ages. They have also been seen as symbols of good luck. Black cats symbolize much more than their cuteness.

Life for black cats has not always been easy. Many cultures do not like black cats. These beliefs go back centuries. Black cats were very disliked during the Middle Ages in Europe. People back then believed in witchcraft. Black cats were believed to be a witch's familiar. Familiar means they were a witch's helper. People also believed black cats could shape-shift. Witches were believed to be evil. Black cats were believed to be evil too.

People did not trust black cats. There was a belief that if a black cat crossed your path, it was bad luck. Some believed it meant a witch was nearby. This was all bad for black cats. During this time, black cats were hunted. Some were killed. People hoped this would weaken a witch's power. These beliefs about black cats contributed to the witch trials. This was a dark time. Both people and animals were harmed.

Black cats are not just linked to bad luck. Many cultures thought black cats were good. They are seen as a symbol of good luck. They also symbolize protection. In ancient Egypt, cats were respected. They were important animals. They are connected to the goddess Bastet. She represented home and birth. In ancient Egypt, they believed Bastet became a black cat. Black cats were believed to have magic powers. People were punished if they killed a black cat.



Sculpture of ancient Egyptian goddess Bastet as a black cat

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In ancient Japan, black cats were good luck. They were believed to keep bad spirits away. They had cat statues in Japan. These were called "Maneki-Neko." This means "beckoning cat." The statue is usually a black cat. It is to invite good luck.



A black Maneki-neko in Japan

In French tales, black cats were good luck. They were also protectors. Black cats were popular with fishermen. The black cats were welcomed onto boats. They were even kept in fishermen's homes. The fishermen hoped they brought good luck. Black cats represent luck and protection in many cultures.

The symbolism of black cats has changed. They are a big part of Halloween. Black cats were once believed to be bad luck. Today, they are seen as symbols of good luck. Halloween has helped. The holiday has made black cats a popular symbol. Many people keep black cats as pets. They are seen in Halloween decorations. We also see black cats in costumes. Black cats are cool symbols of Halloween. They are mysterious. Black cats do not bring fear anymore.



The symbol of a black cat being used as a fun Halloween cupcake decoration

Black cats have had a long journey. Many cultures have had different beliefs about black cats. They have been misunderstood. Black cats have also been symbols of good luck. Black cats are important symbols of Halloween. They are not just cute. They are also powerful symbols.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Love-Hate History of the Black Cat

Halloween celebrations are never complete without a black cat. Black cats have symbolized many different things throughout history. Their symbolism has changed with the beliefs of different cultures. Black cats were misunderstood during the dark days of the Middle Ages. However, they have also been seen as symbols of good luck in cultures around the world. While they may be cute, black cats hold symbolism far greater than their adorable appearance.

Life as a black cat has not always been easy. Many cultures have held negative beliefs about black cats. These beliefs date back centuries. During the Middle Ages in Europe, the reputation of black cats took a dark turn. This was due to the people's beliefs in witchcraft. In this period, black cats were often associated with witches. They were considered to be their familiars. This meant many believed the black cat to be a witch's supernatural protector and assistant. Many people at this time also believed that these black cats could shape-shift. A popular view at the time was that witches were evil.

As witches' familiars, black cats represented evil. Black cats were known for their nocturnal habits and mysterious nature. This brought on a lot of suspicion. Many people believed that a black cat crossing one's path was an omen of bad luck. Some thought it was a sign that a witch was nearby. This was bad news for black cats. They were sometimes hunted down and killed. People believed this would weaken a witch's power. Such superstitions about black cats contributed to the panic that fueled the witch trials. This was a dark chapter in history. It resulted in the unjust treatment of both people and animals.

Many cultures throughout history viewed black cats in a positive light. They have often been thought of as symbols of good fortune and protection. In ancient Egypt, cats were highly respected. They were considered sacred animals. They were often connected with the goddess Bastet. She was the goddess of home and childbirth. In Ancient Egypt, they believed Bastet eventually took the form of a black cat. Black cats were descendants of Bastet. This meant they were believed to have supernatural powers. The killing of a cat, even accidentally, could result in punishment.



Sculpture of ancient Egyptian goddess Bastet as a black cat

©Julie Bachose

In ancient Japanese culture, black cats were considered good luck. They were believed to ward off evil spirits. The "Maneki-Neko," or "beckoning cat" statue is commonly seen in Japan. It is sometimes depicted as a black cat. The statue is meant to invite good luck and keep evil away.



A black Maneki-neko in Japan

In French folklore, black cats were often seen as bringers of good luck. They were believed to have protective qualities Black cats were popular with fishermen. The black cats were sometimes even welcomed onto boats. They were even kept in fishermen's homes to bring a large catch and calm seas. In many cultures, black cats represent luck, protection, and divine favor.

The symbolism of black cats has transformed. This is seen when it comes to Halloween festivities. Black cats were once considered bad omens or symbols of witchcraft. Today, they are more commonly seen as icons of good luck. Halloween has helped change their image. The holiday has turned them into popular mascots of the season. Many people now adopt black cats as pets. They even feature them in Halloween decorations, costumes, and media. All this positive attention puts them in a much better light than in the past. During Halloween, the black cat has become a symbol that captures the imagination. It no longer brings fear.



The symbol of a black cat being used as a fun Halloween cupcake decoration

Black cats have had a fascinating journey through time. Their path was shaped by the beliefs of different cultures. These mysterious felines have been misunderstood in history. They have also served as a symbol of good luck. Today, black cats have become important icons of Halloween. The black cat has shown they are not just adorable companions but also powerful symbols.

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1000L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Love-Hate History of the Black Cat

From ancient civilizations to modern Halloween celebrations, black cats have prowled through history. Their symbolism has changed with the beliefs of different cultures. Black cats were misunderstood during the dark days of the Middle Ages. However, they have also been seen as beacons of good luck in cultures around the world. While they may be cute, black cats hold symbolism and meaning far greater than their adorable appearance.

Life as a black cat has not always been easy. Many cultures have held negative beliefs about black cats dating back centuries. During the Middle Ages in Europe, the reputation of black cats took a dark turn. This was largely due to the widespread belief in witchcraft and superstitions. In this period, black cats were often associated with witches. They were considered to be their familiars, meaning many believed the black cat to be a witch's supernatural protector and assistant. Many people at this time also held the belief that these black cats could shape-shift into the witches themselves. This connection arose from the popular view that witches were in league with dark forces.

As witches' familiars, black cats represented evil. Known for their nocturnal habits and mysterious nature, many people were suspicious of black cats. The fear in the Middle Ages over witches only heightened this belief. Many people believed that a black cat crossing one's path was an omen of bad luck or even a sign that a witch was nearby. This led to grim consequences for black cats. They were sometimes hunted down or killed in the belief that this would weaken a witch's power. Such superstitions about black cats being agents of witches contributed to the panic that fueled the witch trials. This was a dark chapter in history. It resulted in the unjust persecution of both people and animals.

Contrary to the negative beliefs held about black cats, many cultures throughout history viewed black cats in a much more positive light. In fact, they have often been regarded as symbols of good fortune and protection throughout history. In ancient Egypt, cats were highly respected and considered sacred animals. They were often associated with the goddess Bastet, who was the deity of home, fertility, and childbirth. In Ancient Egypt, legend tells that Bastet eventually took the form of a black cat. As descendants of Bastet, black cats were believed to have supernatural powers. The killing of a cat, even accidentally, could result in severe punishment.



Sculpture of ancient Egyptian goddess Bastet as a black cat

©Julie Bochorse

In ancient Japanese culture, black cats were considered good luck. They were believed to ward off evil spirits. The "Maneki-Neko," or "beckoning cat" statue that is commonly seen in Japan, is sometimes depicted as a black cat to invite good luck and stave off evil.



A black Maneki-neko in Japan

In French folklore, black cats were often seen as bringers of good luck, particularly for fishermen. They were believed to have protective qualities. The black cats were sometimes even welcomed onto boats or kept in fishermen's homes to bring a large catch and calm seas. Despite some of the more negative outlooks on black cats, in many cultures they often represent the positive qualities of luck, protection, and divine favor.

The symbolism of black cats has undergone a transformation. This is most significantly seen when it comes to Halloween festivities. Black cats were once considered bad omens or symbols of witchcraft. Today, they are more commonly seen as icons of mystery. The spooky nature of Halloween has helped reshape their image. The holiday has turned them into popular mascots of the season alongside pumpkins and bats. Many people now adopt black cats as pets. They even feature them in Halloween decorations, costumes, and media. All this positive attention casts them in a much better light than in past centuries. During Halloween, the black cat has become a symbol that captures the imagination. It no longer brings fear the way it did in the Middle Ages.



The symbol of a black cat being used as a fun Halloween cupcake decoration

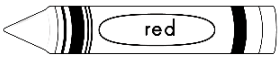
Black cats have had a fascinating journey through time. Their path was shaped and reshaped by the beliefs and attitudes of different cultures. These mysterious felines have been misunderstood in history, while also serving as valued symbols of good luck in ancient civilizations. Today, black cats have become whimsical icons of Halloween. No longer confined to the shadows of superstition, black cats have claimed their place in the spotlight. The black cat has shown they are not just adorable companions but also powerful symbols.

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Halloween Symbols Name: _____ Date: _____

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. In the Middle Ages, how did people believe black cats and witches were connected?

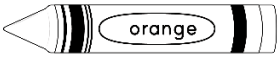


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2. Explain the relationship between ancient Egyptians had with black cats. Support your response with details from the text.



_____

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3. How are black cats connected to the idea of "respect"? What details and evidence from the text support this idea?



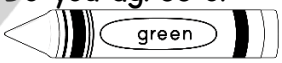
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4. Joyce made the following statement: "Halloween really hasn't had any impact on how people view black cats. They are signs of bad luck; we should avoid them." Examine the text. Do you agree or disagree with Joyce's statement? Why or why not?



Agree or Disagree?

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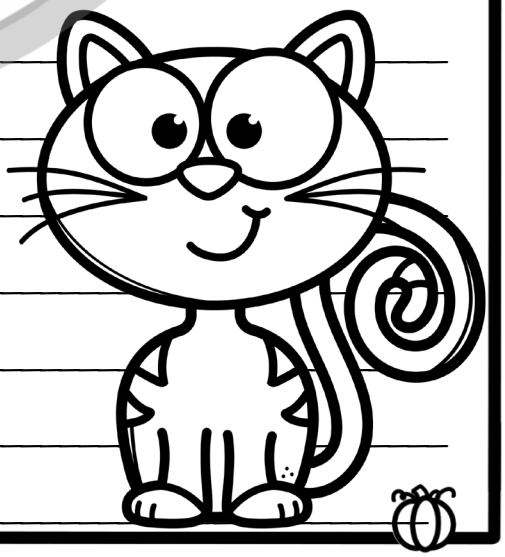
Why or Why Not?

5. Sort the various beliefs held about black cats throughout history by "negative" and "positive."

Negative	Positive

THE LOVE-HATE HISTORY OF THE BLACK CAT RESPONSE

The view on black cats has changed across time and cultures. Write a response comparing and contrasting the negative and positive views and beliefs surrounding black cats. In your response, be sure to highlight beliefs in a variety of cultures and times in history. Your response should be supported with evidence from the text.



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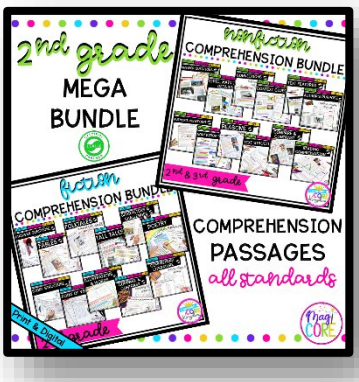
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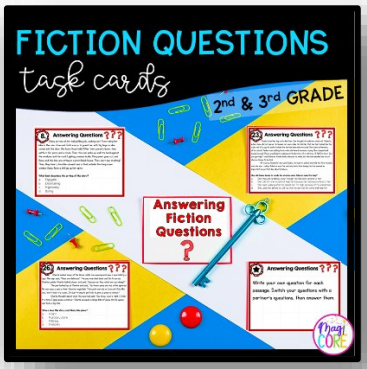
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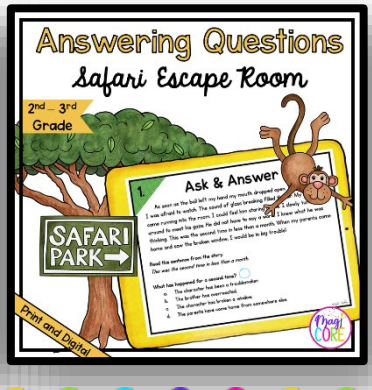
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Talking with Rebecca

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