FICTION | 2ND & 3RD GRADE | RL.2.2 / 3.2

TALL TALES

LEXILE



690L

Recount Folktales

The True Story of John Henry

The story of John Henry began to be told in the 1870's. Historians think this story could be based on a real man. One of the men that these tall tales may be based on is John William Henry.

John William Henry was a Union soldier that fought in th
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The real John Henry worked on the same tunnel
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510L

Recount Folktales

Name: Julie Pacheco Date: 4/5

John Henry

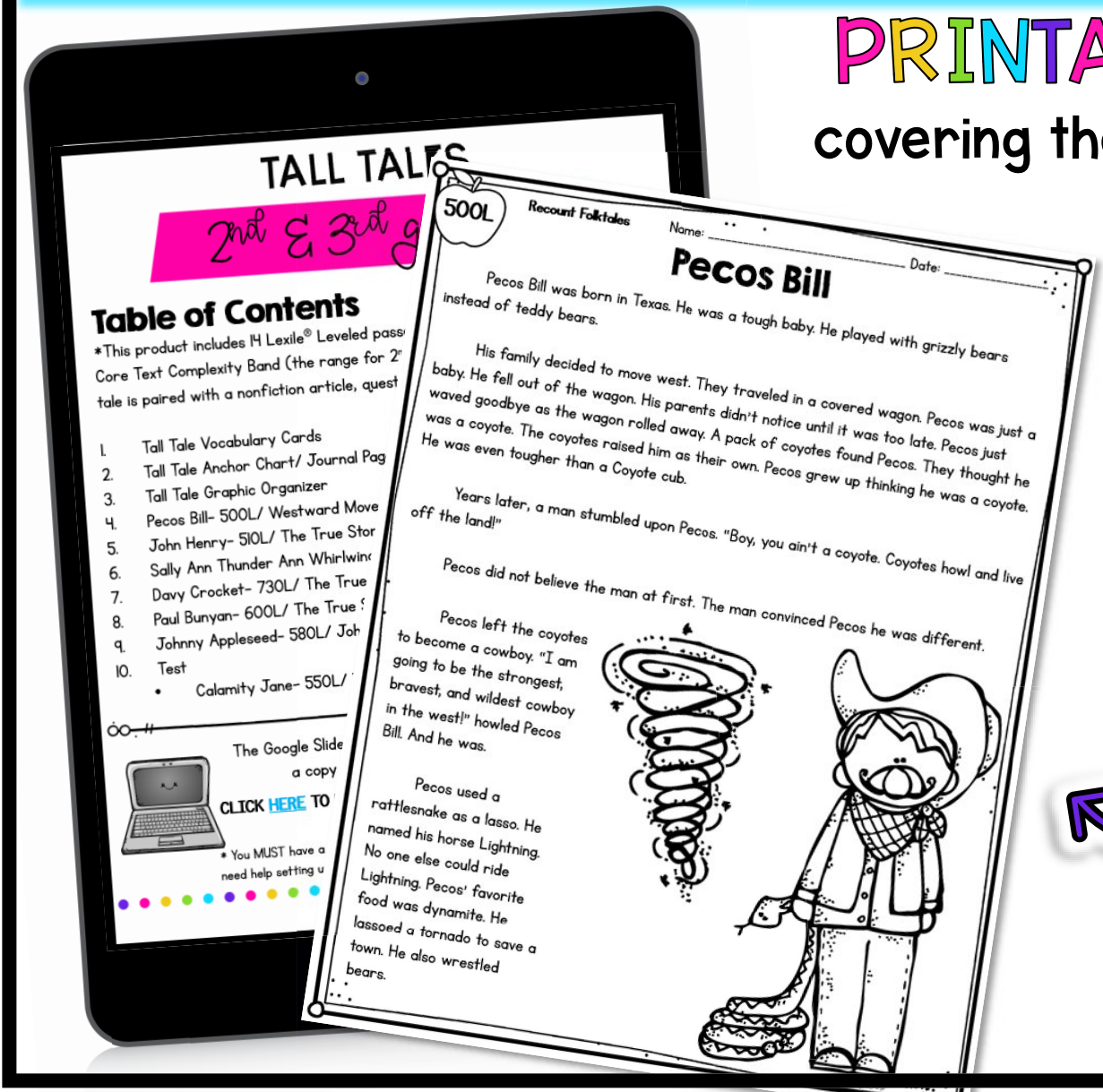
The night John Henry was born was dark and cloudy. John was born just when a larg
bolt of lightning struck. He was born holding a hammer. No one had ever seen a strong baby.
John Henry began growing the first day he was born. He grew until he was the strongest
man alive. John Henry was born a slave, but he was freed when the war ended.

When John was a young child, he would play with his father's steel and a hammer
John Henry began working at the nearby railroad when he was six. By ten, he worked
longer days than some grown men. He would always listen to the sound of the trains and
tell people, "I am going to be a steel-driver one day."

A few years later, John Henry became one of the
worked for hours straight. He worked so fast
got married and had a son. His son

MagCORE

WHAT'S INSIDE?



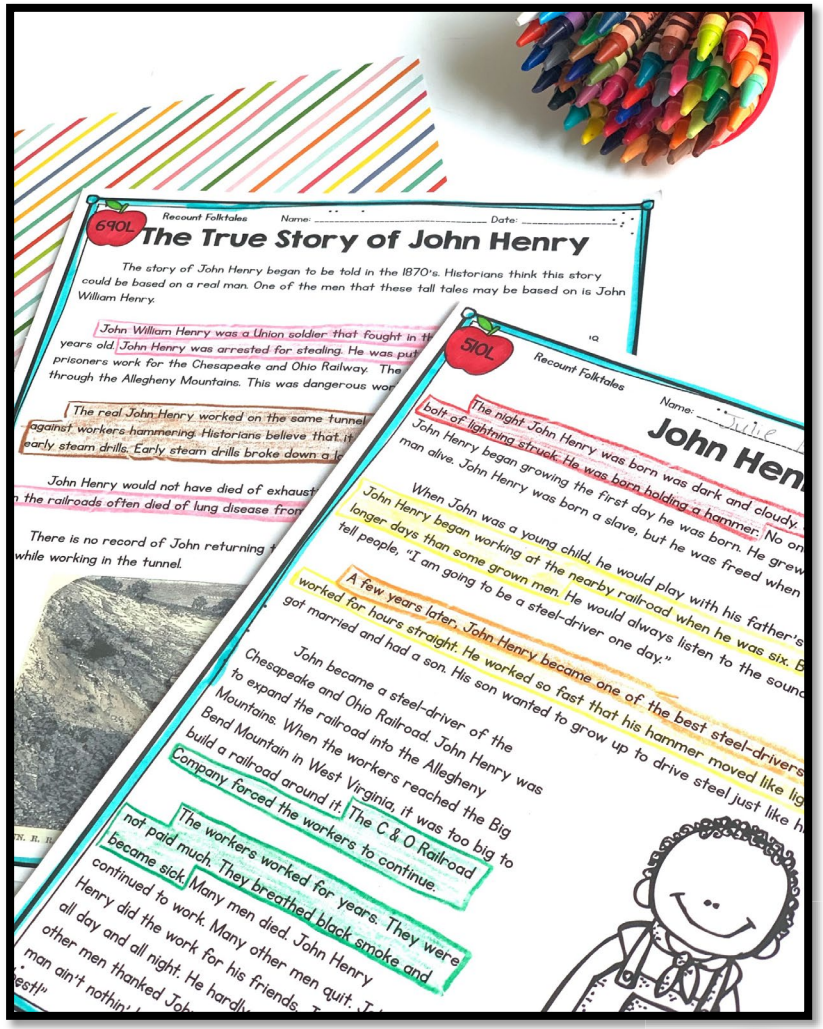
PRINTABLE PDFs and **DIGITAL** Google Slides covering the 2nd and 3rd grade text complexity band with Certified Lexile Levels.

- Anchor charts and question sets
- Color coding to encourage students to use text evidence
- AND two assessments on nonfiction reading passages

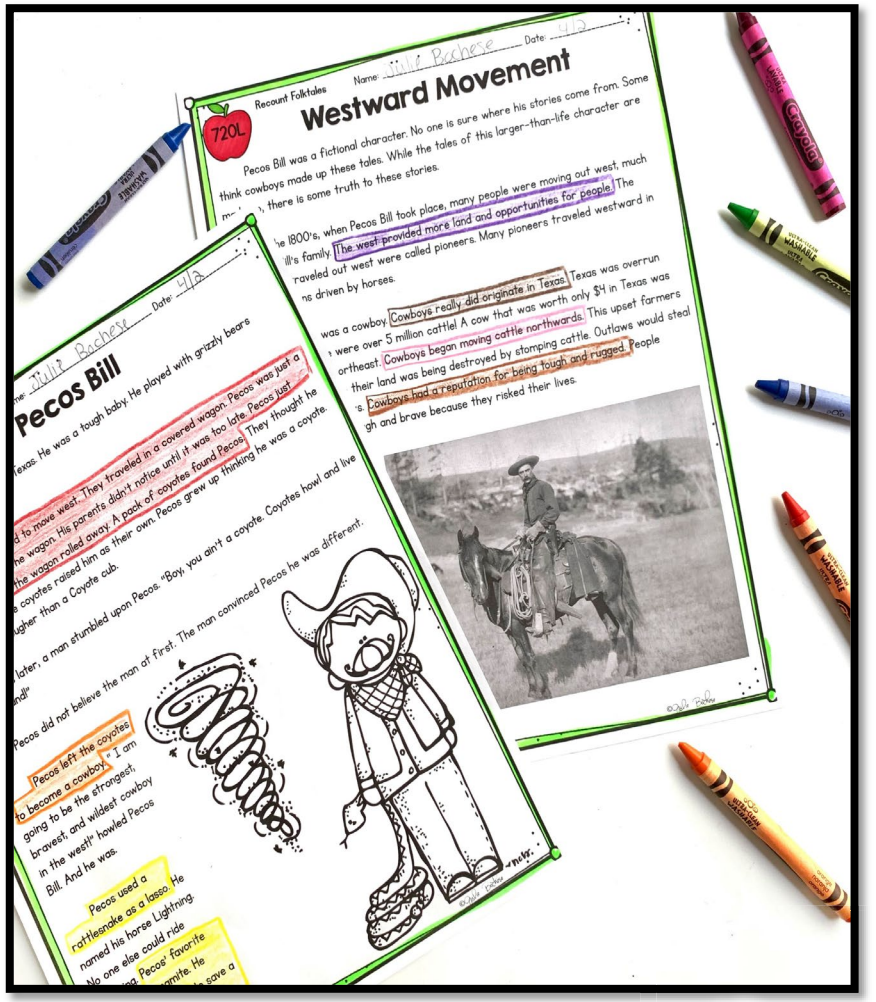
Printable and Google Slides Included

LEXILE®

10 FICTION PASSAGES



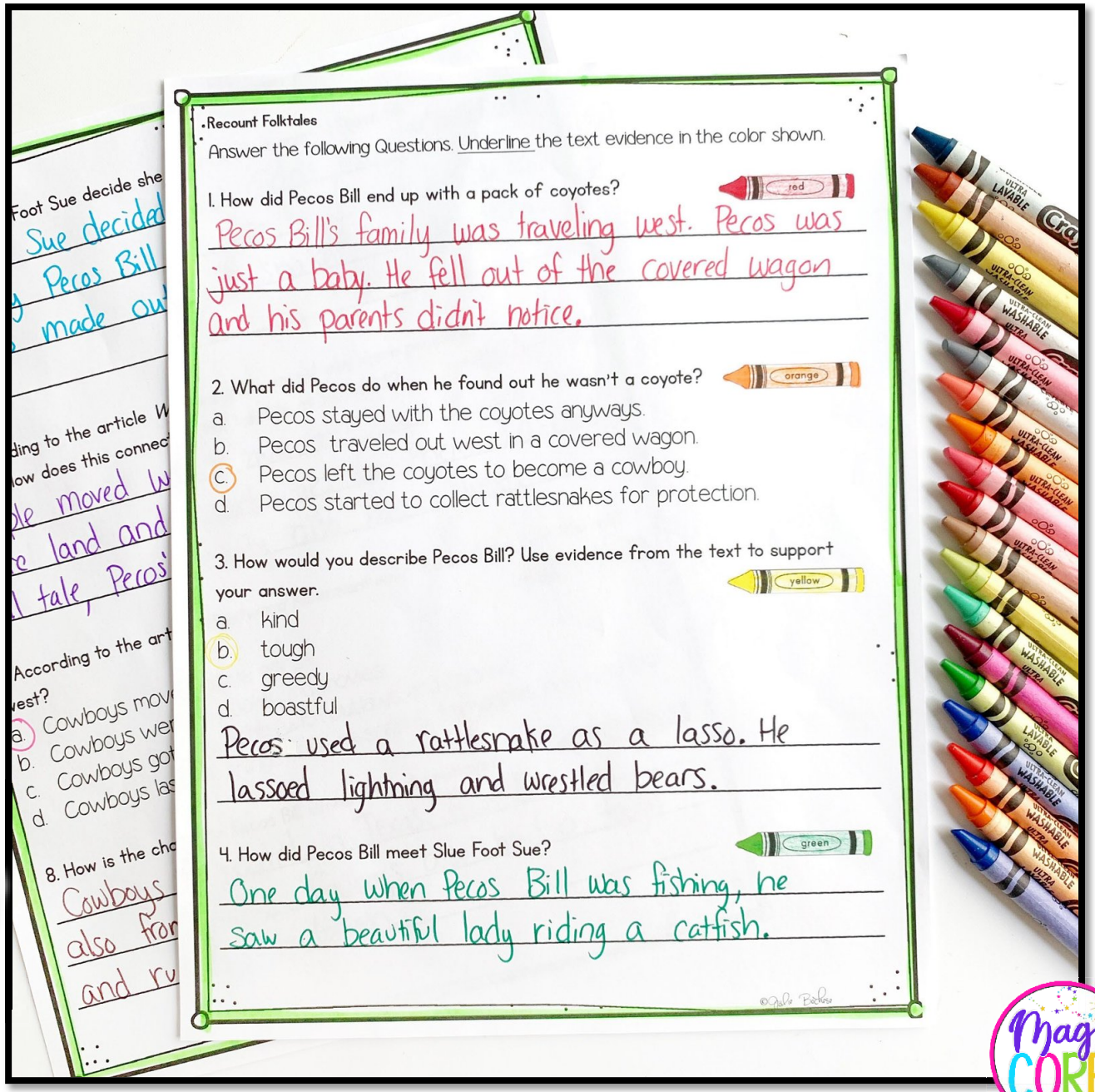
- Learn in color! Visual cues reinforce text evidence
- Teachers can quickly check student work.



- Engaging and diverse passages to spark comprehensi on AND curiosity.
- Dive into paired Tall Tales and nonfiction texts.

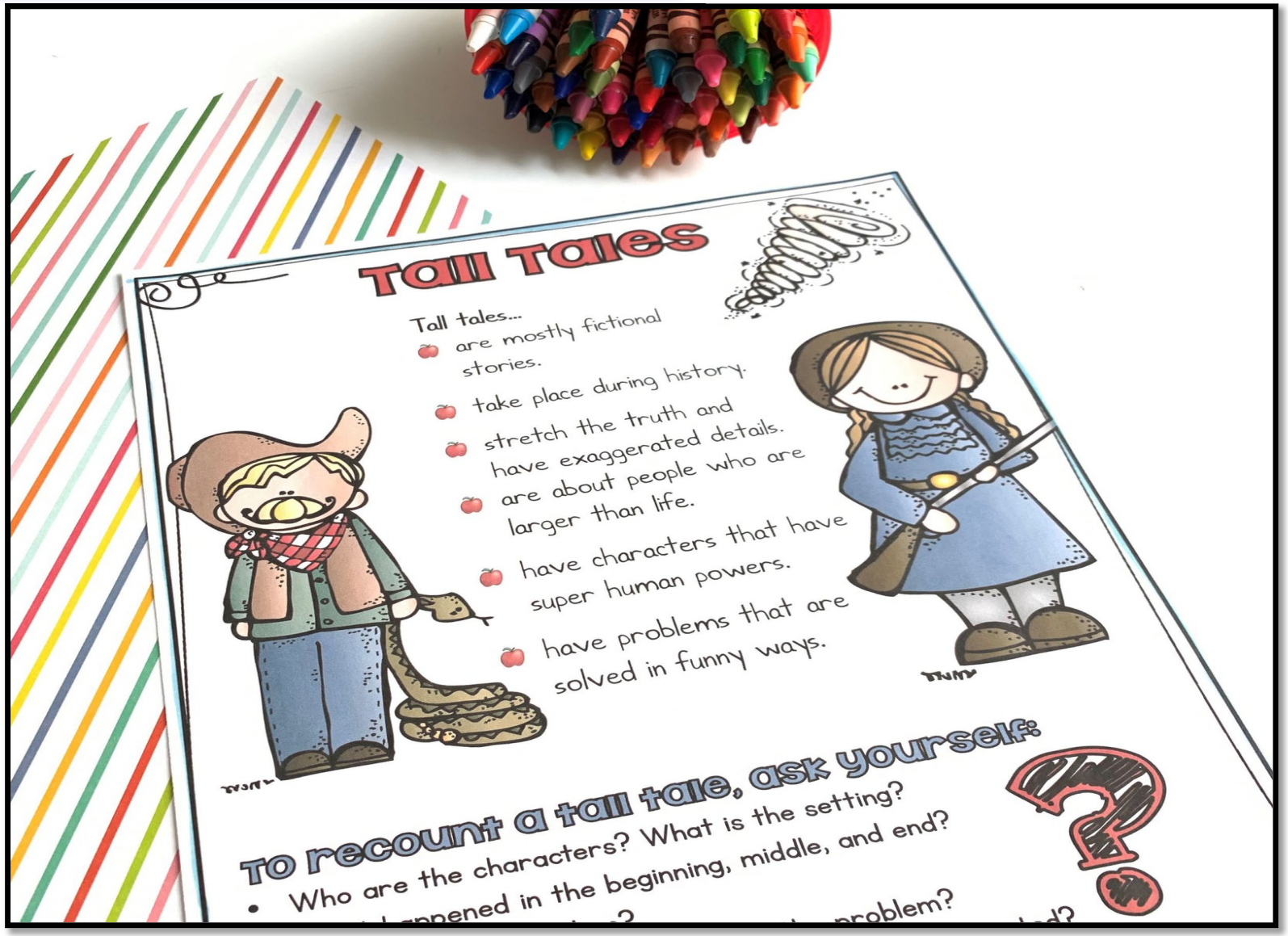
QUESTIONS

- Skill-focused, scaffolded questions
- Multiple choice and short answer
- Preps students for state testing
- Rigorous and research-based approach to questioning



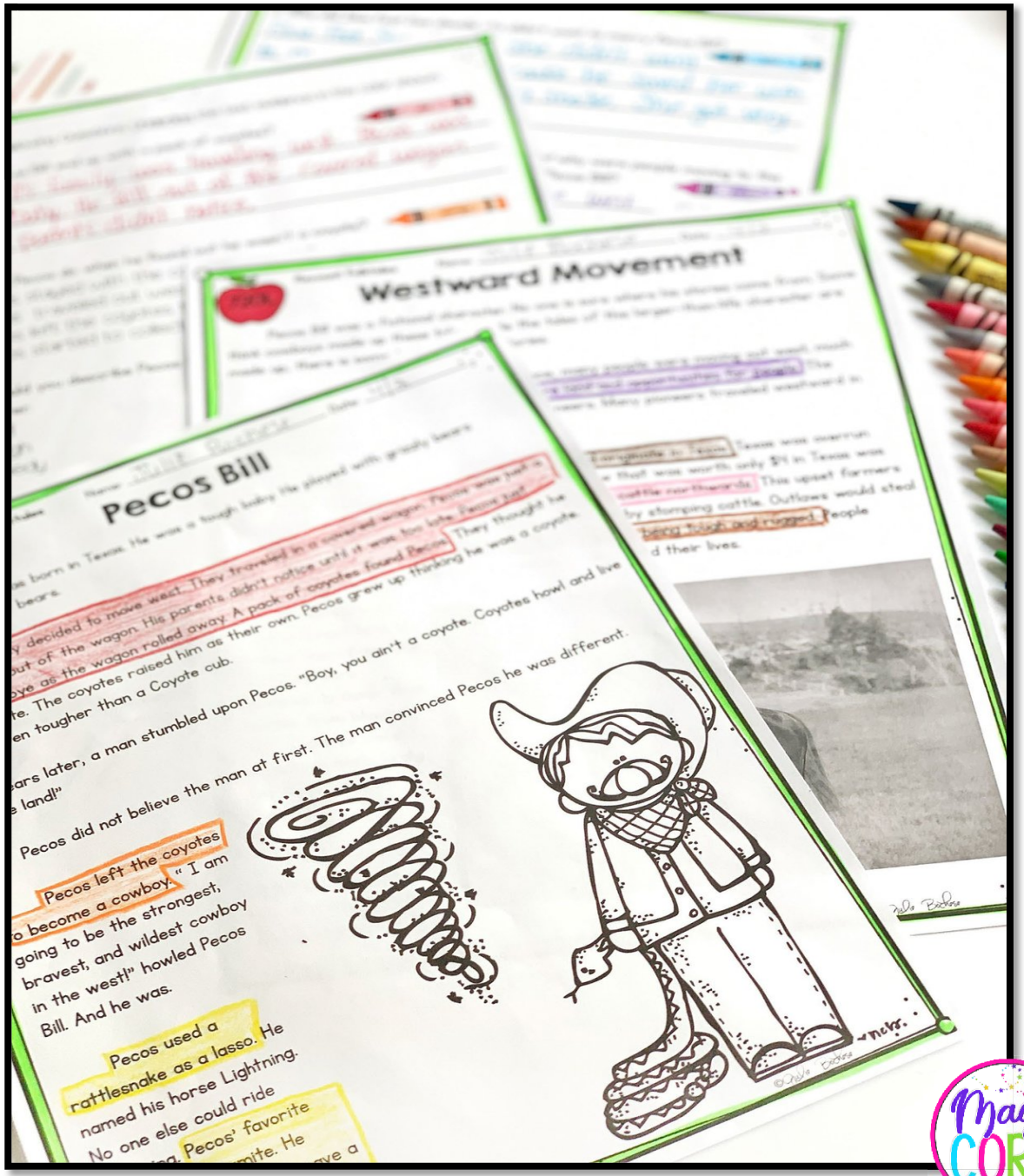
ANCHOR CHARTS

- Anchor charts
- Use to introduce the skill
- Students reference throughout the unit



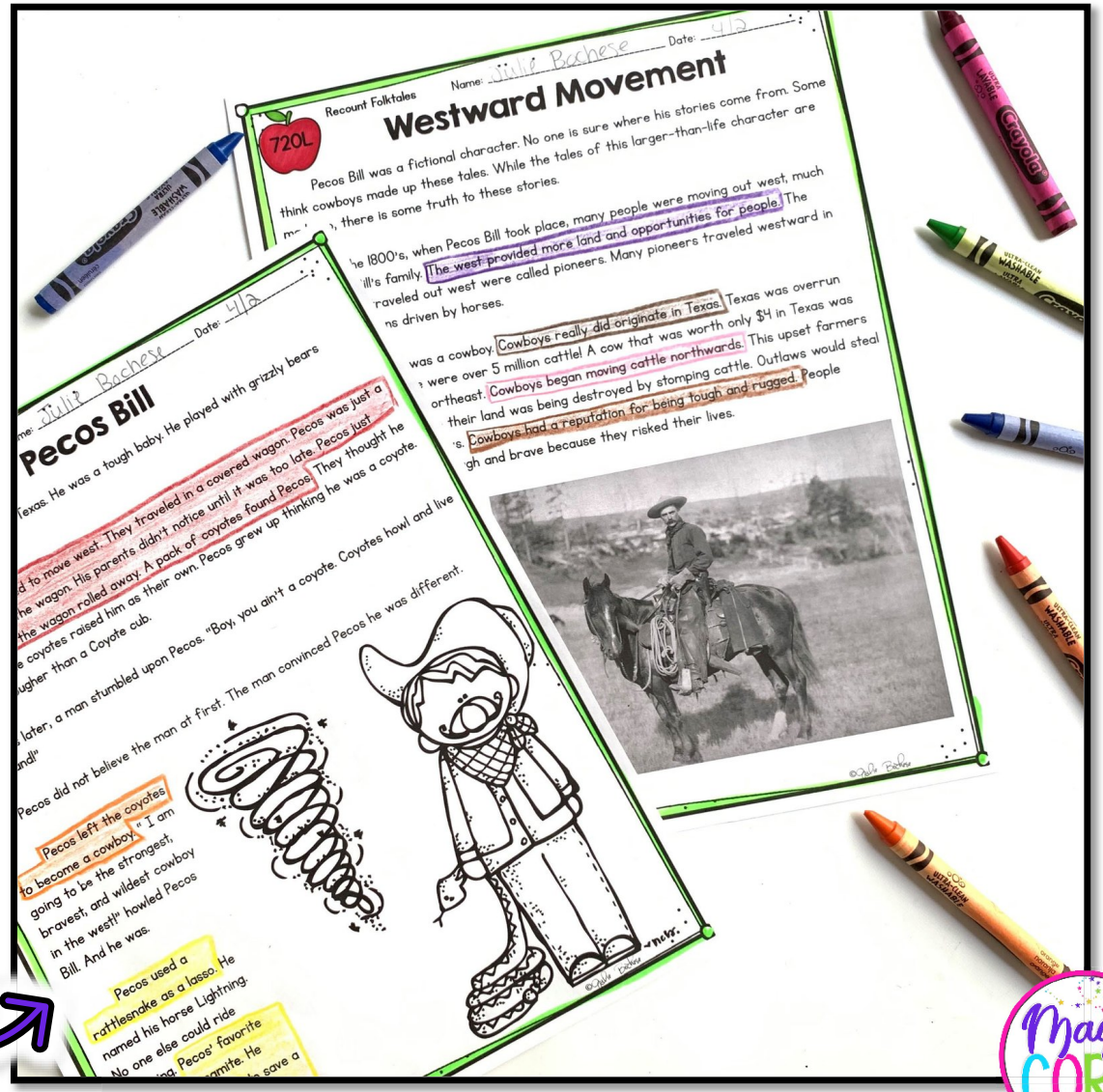
ASSESSMENTS

- Same format as practice
- Two tests with different Lexile levels
- Color-coding
- Follows best practices for standardized assessments



WHY IT WORKS

- Certified Lexile measures
- High - interest texts to motivate readers
- Diverse genres
- Scaffold approach will help your students meet grade level expectations.
- Classroom tested! Trusted by over 1,000 teachers... and counting!



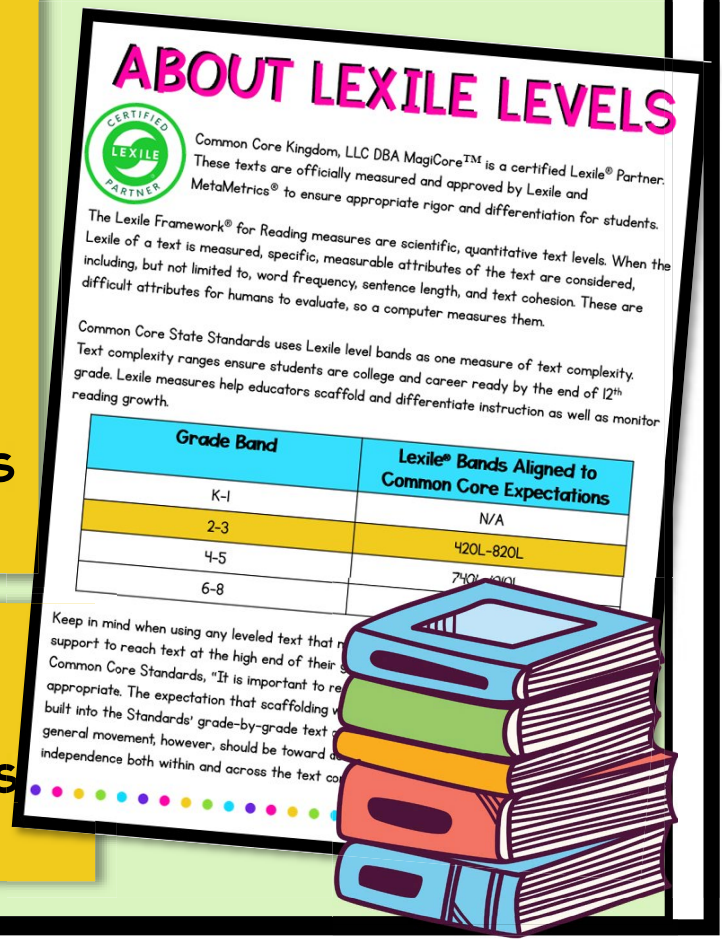
ALIGNS TO SCIENCE OF READING

Research shows that wide reading has the biggest impact on student reading progress.

Our passages provide that essential variety of nonfiction structures and topics.

Students need scaffolded instruction to access grade level texts. Without it, students are not exposure to linguistic and textural features, putting them further behind.

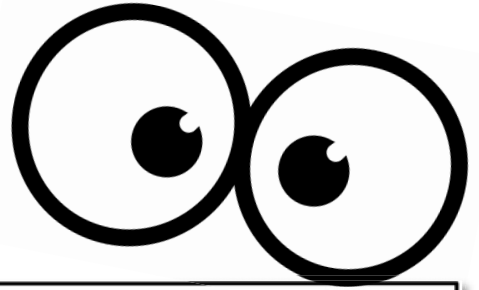
Our texts help students grow full-steam ahead. With certified Lexile levels in the Common Core text complexity band, students will 100% engage with appropriate text and sentence structures, vocabulary, and more. Plus, every passage provides teachers with opportunities to scaffold instruction.



Fun fact! From 2nd grade on, students make greater reading gains when taught from texts that are as much as two grade levels above their "instructional" reading level.

Lead the way! Our texts are leveled to master grade-level expectations and set students up for success.

TAKE A PEEK



TALL TALES

2nd & 3rd grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 14 Lexile® Leveled passages in the 2nd-3rd Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 2nd-3rd grade is 420-820). Each tall tale is paired with a nonfiction article, questions, and Venn Diagram foldable.

1. Tall Tale Vocabulary Cards
2. Tall Tale Anchor Chart/ Journal Page
3. Tall Tale Graphic Organizer
4. Pecos Bill- 500L/ Westward Movement- 720L
5. John Henry- 510L/ The True Story of John Henry- 690L
6. Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind- 540L/ Women of the West- 610L
7. Davy Crocket- 730L/ The True Story of Davy Crockett- 780L
8. Paul Bunyan- 600L/ The True Story of Paul Bunyan- 700L
9. Johnny Appleseed- 580L/ John Chapman- 550L
10. Test
    - Calamity Jane- 550L/ The Real Calamity Jane- 540L



The Google Slides version of this resource requires that you make a copy of the resource to your own Google Drive.

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* You MUST have a Google account in order to access this resource. Click HERE if you need help setting up a Google account.

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

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

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

Tall Tales



Tall tales...

- are mostly fictional stories.
- take place during history.
- stretch the truth and have exaggerated details.
- are about people who are larger than life.
- have characters that have superhuman powers.
- have problems that are solved in funny ways.





To recount a tall tale, ask yourself:

- Who are the characters? What is the setting?
- What happened in the beginning, middle, and end?
- What was the problem?
- How did the main character solve the problem?
- What events are true? What events are exaggerated?



©Jodi Bachini

AND ANOTHER PEEK

510L

Recount Folktales Name: _____ Date: _____

John Henry

The night John Henry was born was dark and cloudy. John was born just when a large bolt of lightning struck. He was born holding a hammer. No one had ever seen a strong baby. John Henry began growing the first day he was born. He grew until he was the strongest man alive. John Henry was born a slave, but he was freed when the war ended.

When John was a young child, he would play with his father's steel and a hammer. John Henry began working at the nearby railroad when he was six. By ten, he worked longer days than some grown men. He would always listen to the sound of the trains and tell people, "I am going to be a steel-driver one day."

A few years later, John Henry became one of the best steel-drivers in the world. He worked for hours straight. He worked so fast that his hammer moved like lightning. John got married and had a son. His son wanted to grow up to drive steel just like his father.



John became a steel-driver of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. John Henry was to expand the railroad into the Allegheny Mountains. When the workers reached the Big Bend Mountain in West Virginia, it was too big to build a railroad around it. The C & O Railroad Company forced the workers to continue.

The workers worked for years. They were not paid much. They breathed black smoke and became sick. Many men died. John Henry continued to work. Many other men quit. John Henry did the work for his friends. John worked all day and all night. He hardly ever stopped. The other men thanked John. John would reply, "A man ain't nothin' but a man. He has got to do his best!"

690L

Recount Folktales Name: _____ Date: _____

The True Story of John Henry

The story of John Henry began to be told in the 1870's. Historians think this story could be based on a real man. One of the men that these tall tales may be based on is John William Henry.

John William Henry was a Union soldier that fought in the Civil War. He was only 18 years old. John Henry was arrested for stealing. He was put in prison. The prison had their prisoners work for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. The prisoners blasted tunnels through the Allegheny Mountains. This was dangerous work. Many prisoners died.

The real John Henry worked on the same tunnel where steam drills were tested against workers hammering. Historians believe that it is quite possible for a man to beat early steam drills. Early steam drills broke down a lot.

John Henry would not have died of exhaustion or his heart bursting. Men who worked on the railroads often died of lung disease from the dust.

There is no record of John returning to the prison. Historians believe he may have died while working in the tunnel.



PENN. R. R.—ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN TUNNEL, TWELVE MILES WEST OF ALTOONA.

Recount Folktales

Answer the following Questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

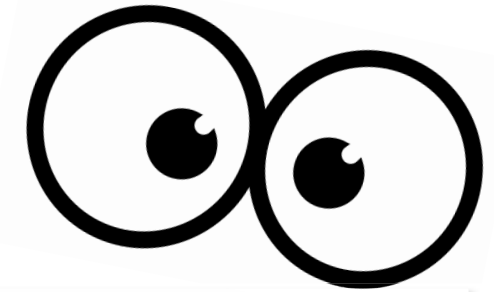
1. Describe what happened the night John Henry was born. red

2. What did the tall tale John Henry do? orange
   a. John Henry drove trains.
   b. John Henry was a soldier.
   c. John Henry was a steel driver.
   d. John Henry fixed things with his hammer.

3. How would you describe John Henry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. yellow
   a. foolish
   b. selfish
   c. dishonest
   d. hardworking

4. What was it like to work for the C & O Railroad company? green

CHECK THIS OUT TOO!



540L

Recount Folktales Name: _____ Date: _____

Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind

Over 200 years ago Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind was born. She was born into a family with nine boys. Sally took one look at her family and started to talk. "Hi! I'm Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind! I'm amazing!"

Sally's parents just stared at their talking baby girl. Then they replied, "You are amazing!"

Sally's brothers were not as excited about their new baby sister. Sally looked right at them and said, "Boys, I can out-run, out-lift, and out-fight all of you!"

Of course her brothers didn't believe Sally. She was just a baby girl. But Sally sure showed them!

When Sally Ann was one-year-old she ran faster than a cheetah. When Sally was four, she beat the strongest men at arm wrestling. Sally Ann was tough and spunky. She was also pretty and sweet. She was so sweet that bees let her use their nests as hats.

When Sally grew older, she decided to set off to find adventure on the Frontier. When winter came, Sally slept in caves with the bears to stay warm. When the bears woke up in the spring, they were angry to find Sally. They growled at Sally. They planned to eat her for dinner. Sally just smiled at them and said, "Hi there!" The bears just melted by her kindness. They all began to dance a jig.

One day, Sally Ann was out in the woods and saw something stuck in a tree. It was a man with a coonskin cap. The man stuck in the tree was Davy Crockett. Davy Crockett was king of the wild frontier. Soon after, Sally noticed a nest of rattlesnakes by her feet. Sally grabbed the rattlesnakes and knotted them together. She made a lasso. Sally used the lasso to grab the branch and free Davy.

610L

Recount Folktales Name: _____ Date: _____

Women of the West

Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind is a fictional character. While she is not real, women who lived on the frontier were true heroes. The journey was difficult. Living life on the frontier was even more challenging.

Women on the frontier provided food for their families. They gathered food and farmed. Women also had to take care of the homes. Houses were often made out of sod. On top of this, women also cared for the children. They made clothes.

The weather was very difficult. There were winter blizzards and the summer was extremely hot. There were droughts. Homes were very far apart, so life was lonely.

Women had to take on jobs that only men did back east. Some learned to shoot guns and drive mules.

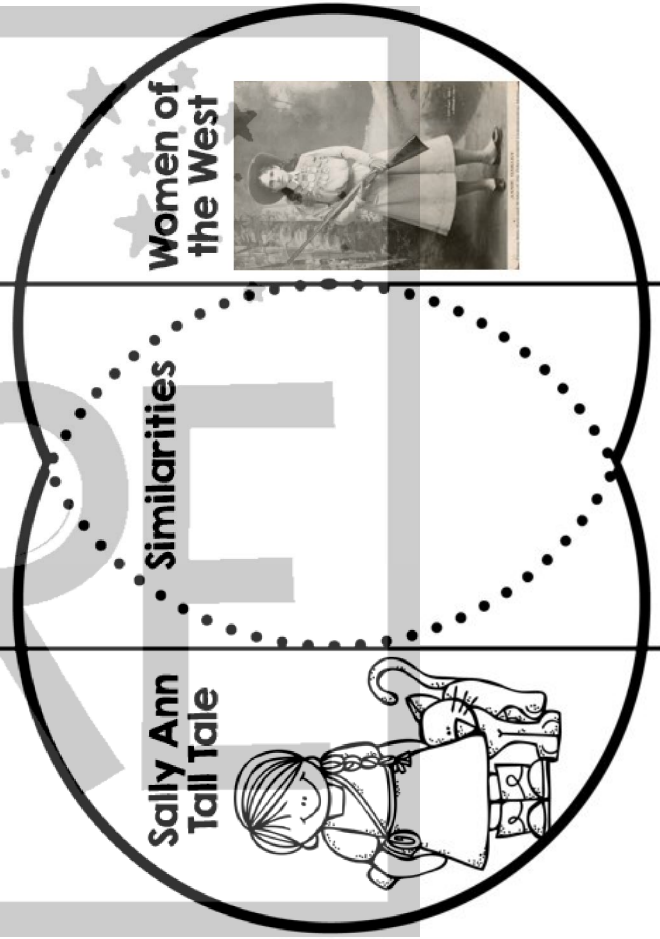
Moving west gave women more rights. They had the chance to earn money. Some women moved to small towns and worked at boarding houses, as waitresses, and teachers. They had the right to own property, unlike women in the east. Some states gave women the right to vote.

While there is no real Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, there surely were plenty of women with her bravery, grit, and spunk. Women of the frontier had many challenges to face.

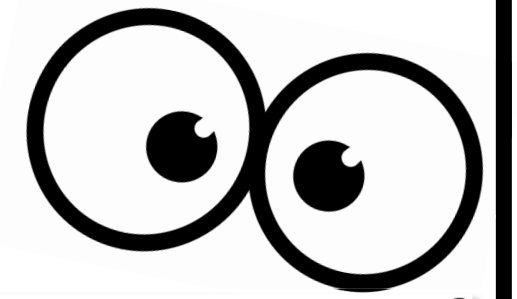


Photo of a pioneer woman taking care of her sod house

Compare and Contrast Name: _____ Date: _____



UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS!



550L

Recount Folktales Name: _____ Date: _____

Test: Calamity Jane

Martha Jane Cannary was born as a normal girl in Missouri. When she was young, she moved with her family to Montana. Martha loved adventures. She was fearless. One day, Martha saved 30 people on a stagecoach who were attacked. She threw herself and her horse right into the river, unafraid. She knew she was tough enough to survive. After this, she earned the nickname Calamity Jane.



Calamity Jane got a job as a Pony Express rider. She brought mail from her town of Deadwood to towns 50 miles away. Calamity Jane was tougher than all of the men riders. She could whack a fly off a horse's ear with a 16 foot whip.

One day, Jane was relaxing with her favorite horse Jim in Deadwood. A man came to town who had heard stories of Calamity Jane. He did not believe a woman could possibly beat him in a horse race. He wanted to meet her. He approached Jane and said, "Hi ma'am. I've heard quite a lot about you. Care to race me?"

Now, Calamity loved adventure. She could never turn down a challenge.

"Absolutely sir!" Calamity exclaimed.

©Gail Bishop

540L

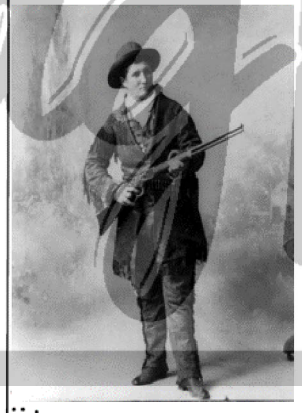
Recount Folktales Name: _____ Date: _____

Test: The Real Calamity Jane

Martha Jane Cannary was born on May 1, 1852 in Missouri. Martha grew up with six younger brothers and sisters. When Martha was 13, her family moved to Montana, followed by Utah. Her mother died along the journey. The Cannary family started a farm in Utah. Only a year later, Martha's father died. Martha took over raising her siblings. She moved them to Wyoming. Martha hunted right along side all of the men. She had no trouble keeping up with the men. She was fearless.

Martha took any job she could to help her brothers and sisters. She was a cook, waitress, nurse, and ox driver. When she was 22 years old, Martha became a scout. Martha never went to school. She could not read. She was a rough girl of the Great Plains.

Calamity Jane exaggerated many stories about her heroism. One of these stories included a fight she got into in which she saved a captain. She claimed this is how she got her name Calamity Jane. It is most likely that these stories are not true. Despite these exaggerations, Calamity Jane was famous for her spunk and braveness. Many believe Calamity Jane got her name because she scared off any man who wanted to marry her.



When Calamity Jane turned 24, she moved to Deadwood South Dakota. Calamity Jane stayed in Deadwood for a while. She loved to help people. Once she helped save a stagecoach that was under attack. Jane was also a nurse to people who got smallpox.

In 1893, Calamity Jane joined *Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show*. She was a storyteller. People came to hear Jane's wild stories of her adventures in the wild west.

In 1903, Jane returned to South Dakota. On her journey, she became very sick and died. People came far and wide to bid farewell to Jane. Calamity Jane has appeared in many books, TV shows and movies.

©Gail Bishop

Recount Folktales

Answer the following Questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

1. How did Calamity Jane earn her name? red

_____

_____

_____

2. Which of the following is an exaggerated detail from the tall tale Calamity Jane? orange

a. Calamity Jane got a job as a Pony Express rider.
b. Calamity Jane moved with her family to Montana.
c. Calamity Jane was a cook, waitress, nurse, and ox driver.
d. Calamity Jane could whack a fly off a horse's ear with a 16 foot whip.

3. How would you describe Calamity Jane? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. yellow

a. scary
b. weak
c. daring
d. dangerous

_____

_____

4. How did Calamity Jane respond when a man challenged her to a horse race? green

_____

_____

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