HOLIDAY SYMBOLS

Differentiated Passages

LEXILE®

780L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Legend of the Gingerbread Cookie

Once upon a time, there was a kingdom where gingerbread cookies were the most beloved treat. The king and queen decided to make them their royal treat. Every day, the court jester would bake fresh gingerbread cookies for the king and queen. They enjoyed eating them with cups of hot chocolate.

One winter evening, a snowstorm was raging outside. The king and queen asked the jester to make some gingerbread cookies. Unfortunately, there was no flour left in the pantry. The jester knew that he had to find a way to get more flour or else there would be no gingerbread cookies for the king and queen.

So, he went on a quest to find some flour. He walked for hours through the snow. He finally found a small bakery in town. The baker told him that she didn't have any flour left either, but she did have molasses. The jester wasn't sure what molasses was, but he knew that it would have to do. He didn't have any other options.

He quickly ran back to the castle with the molasses and started baking gingerbread cookies. It was a lot harder than it looked. After many tries, he finally got them right. Best of all, they tasted even better than regular gingerbread cookies! The king and queen were so pleased with the jester's effort. They rewarded him by giving him a lifetime supply of molasses.



From then on, gingerbread cookies became even more popular in the kingdom. They were served on special occasions. People often asked for them as gifts. The jester's recipe was so popular that it spread across the kingdom. It eventually spread to other parts of the world.

That is how gingerbread cookies became a beloved treat! To this day, people still enjoy them on special occasions, just like the king and queen did so many years ago. So, whenever you eat a gingerbread cookie, remember the brave jester and [illegible] quest for the perfect recipe. Who knows, maybe you'll find a way to make your own gingerbread [illegible]s as delicious as his!

©Julie Bachus

820L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name

The History of t

The gingerbread cookie is a classic Christmas dessert. But did you know it has been around for centuries? Over the year this delicious cookie has become a holiday staple around the world.

There are many legends about t origins of this cookie. One legend is tha German monk invented the gingerbrea to keep children amused during Lent.



erbread salesman in

e first recipe wa ead man cookie is . The dough is th to a man

Date:

gerbread cookies?

es?

a festive

©Julie Bachus

2nd- 5th Grade

Magi CORE

HOLIDAY SYMBOLS

2nd- 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 14 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.

Part 1: Passages

1. The History of the Christmas Tree (620L, 820L, 1010L)
2. Symbols of Hanukkah (550L, 680L, 1010L)
3. The Meaning of the Kinara (570L, 800L, 900L)
4. The History of Candy Canes (490L, 820L, 1010L)

Part 2: Paired Nonfiction Articles & Legends

1. The History of the Poinsettia (400L, 820L, 1000L)
2. Pepita's Gift (480L, 740L, 970L)
3. The Menorah (500L, 740L, 970L)
4. The Miracle of Hanukkah (360L, 610L, 830L)
5. The History of the Gingerbread Person (590L, 820L, 1020L)
6. The Legend of the Gingerbread Cookie (530L, 780L, 1010L)
7. The Scandinavian Nisse Doll (550L, 820L, 1000L)
8. The Legend of the Nisse (490L, 710L, 950L)
9. The Christmas Spider Web (540L, 800L, 990L)
10. The Legend of the Christmas Spider (480L, 700L, 950L)

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."

PASSAGES

with comprehension questions

EXAMPLES FOLLOW

620L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Christmas Tree

People put up Christmas trees to celebrate the holidays. They have been doing this for centuries. Some people think that Christmas trees are a symbol of Christianity. Others think they are a symbol of winter and the holidays. For many people, the Christmas tree is the most important part of their holiday decorations.

The Christmas tree has been a symbol of Christianity for centuries. But the use of Christmas trees came before Christianity. In pagan times, evergreens were a symbol of new life. Christmas trees were perfect for celebrating the start of a new year.



Picture of Martin Luther with his family celebrating with the first Christmas tree.

In the 16th century, Christians started decorating evergreen trees. The first use of a Christmas tree in a Christian setting was in 1533. Lutheran minister, Martin Luther, put a small evergreen tree in his home to celebrate the holiday.



Engraving of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with their Christmas tree.

Germans started using Christmas trees in the 16th century. Germans had many holiday traditions. One tradition was decorating evergreen trees. They used candles and ornaments. They put these trees in their homes and churches. Germans would sing and dance around the trees.

The Christmas tree became more and more popular in Britain and America during the 1800s. Prince Albert was from Germany. He helped make the Christmas tree popular in England. He brought a tree into Windsor Castle in 1841. People in America started to decorate their homes with Christmas trees, too. This happened because some Germans moved to America. They brought their holiday traditions with them.

©Julia Bochoso

820L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Christmas Tree

Today, the Christmas tree is a popular tradition all over the world. Families often decorate them with ornaments and lights to celebrate the holiday season. Christmas trees have a long history. People have been putting up Christmas trees for centuries. Some people think that the Christmas tree is a symbol of Christianity. Others think that it is a symbol of winter and the holiday season. For many people, the Christmas tree is the most important part of their holiday decorations. But what do we actually know about this festive evergreen? Here are some fun facts about the history and meaning of the Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree has been a symbol of Christianity for centuries. But the use of evergreen trees to celebrate winter festivals predates Christianity. In pagan times, evergreens were a symbol of new life and rebirth. This made Christmas trees perfect for celebrating the start of a new year.



Picture of Martin Luther with his family celebrating with the first Christmas tree.

Christians started decorating evergreen trees to celebrate Christmas in the 16th century. The first recorded use of a Christmas tree in a Christian setting was in 1533. Lutheran minister, Martin Luther, put a small evergreen tree in his home to celebrate the holiday.



Engraving of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with their Christmas tree.

Germans started using Christmas trees in the 16th century. Germans had many traditions during the holiday season. One tradition was decorating evergreen trees with candles and ornaments. They would set up these trees in their homes and churches. Germans would spend time singing and dancing around the trees.

The Christmas tree became more and more popular in Britain and America during the 1800s. Prince Albert, who was from Germany, helped make the Christmas tree popular in England. He brought a tree into Windsor Castle in 1841. After that, people in America started to decorate their homes with Christmas trees, too. This happened partly because some Germans moved to America. They brought their holiday traditions with them.

©Julia Bachosa

The History of the Christmas Tree

For many people, the Christmas tree is the most important part of their holiday decorations. But what do we actually know about this festive evergreen? Here are some fun facts about the history and meaning of the Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree has been a symbol of Christianity for centuries. In fact, the use of evergreen trees to celebrate winter festivals predates Christianity. In pagan times, evergreens were a representation of new life and rebirth. This made them perfect for celebrating the start of a new year.

Christians began adopting the practice of decorating evergreen trees to celebrate Christmas in the 16th century. The first recorded use of a Christmas tree in a Christian setting was in 1533. Lutheran minister, Martin Luther, placed a small evergreen tree in his home to celebrate the holiday.



Picture of Martin Luther with his family celebrating with the first Christmas Tree.

Germans were some of the first people to start using Christmas trees in the 16th century. At that time, Germans were celebrating the holiday season with many traditions. One of their favorite activities was decorating evergreen trees with candles and ornaments. They would set up these trees in their homes and churches and would often spend hours singing and dancing around them.



The Christmas tree became increasingly popular in Britain and America in the 19th century. Prince Albert, German husband of Queen Victoria, is credited with popularizing the Christmas tree in England. He brought one into Windsor Castle in 1841. Americans began decorating their homes with Christmas trees shortly thereafter, thanks in part to German immigrants who brought their holiday traditions with them when they settled in the United States.

Engraving of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with their Christmas tree.

©Julia Bachosa

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. What does the Christmas tree symbolize?

_____

_____

2. Where and when did the Christmas tree originate?
   a. It originated in Germany in the 1500s.
   b. It originated in America in the 1800s.
   c. It originated as a pagan tradition.
   d. It originated in Britain in the 19th century.

3. Who was the first recorded person to use a Christmas tree as a Christian decoration?

_____

4. Describe what 16th-century German Christmas trees looked like and how they were used.

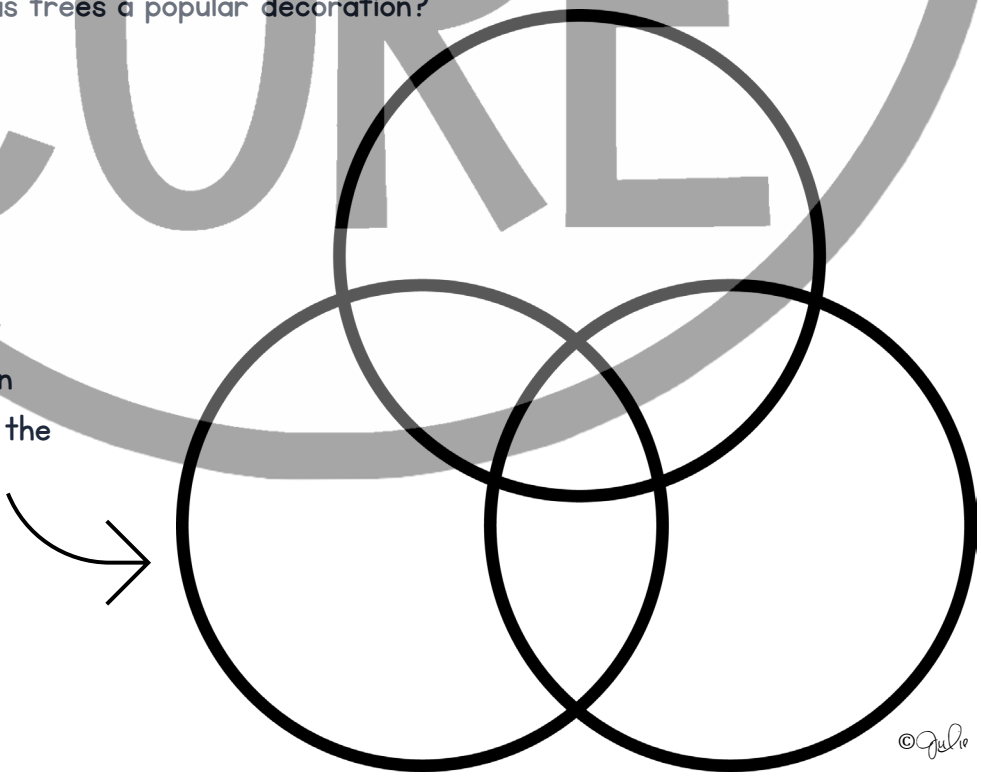
_____

_____

_____

4. Who helped make Christmas trees a popular decoration?
   a. Martin Luther
   b. Prince Albert
   c. Queen Victoria
   d. Georgia Chichilaki

6. Compare and contrast how Christmas trees are used in your country, Georgia, and the Bahamas.



©Julia Bochoso

570L **Holiday Symbols Passages** Name: _____ Date: _____

The Meaning of the Kinara

The kinara is a candleholder. It has seven candles. The kinara is used to celebrate the African American holiday Kwanzaa. Kinara means "candleholder" in Swahili. Each day of Kwanzaa, a new candle is lit.



The first kinara was made in 1966. It was made by Dr. Maulana Karenga. He wanted African Americans to have a holiday. African Americans celebrate the joys of being African American.

Each candle stands for one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

The center candle is black. It is lit on the first day. It symbolizes the struggles of African Americans. The three red candles stand for struggle, work, and creativity. The three green candles represent faith, hope, and love. The first candle is lit on December 26th and the last candle is lit on January 1st.



Every night during Kwanzaa, families light the kinara. They talk about what each principle means. They talk about how to use the principle.

Kwanzaa celebrates African American culture. It is a time to spread joy and love. Lighting the kinara is an important part of this holiday. The kinara reminds us to practice these principles.

©Julia Bachosa

800L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Meaning of the Kinara

The kinara is a candleholder with seven candles. It is used to celebrate the African American holiday of Kwanzaa. The word kinara means "candleholder" in the Swahili language. Each day of Kwanzaa, a different candle is lit.



The first kinara was created in 1966. It was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga. He wanted African Americans to have a holiday of their own and to celebrate the joys of being African American.

Every candle stands for one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

The center black candle is lit on the first day. It symbolizes the struggles of African Americans. The three red candles stand for struggle, work, and creativity. The three green candles represent faith, hope, and love. The first candle is lit on December 26th and the last candle is lit on January 1st.



Every night during Kwanzaa, families light the kinara to honor these seven principles. They also take time to discuss what each principle means and how they can use it.

Kwanzaa is a time to celebrate African American culture and spread joy and love. Lighting the kinara is an important part of this special holiday because it reminds us to practice these principles.

©Julia Bochoso

900L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Meaning of the Kinara

The kinara, or "candleholder" in Swahili, is a candleholder with seven candles. It is used to celebrate the African American holiday of Kwanzaa. Each day of Kwanzaa, a different candle is lit.



The first kinara was created in 1966. Its creator, Dr. Maulana Karenga, wanted African Americans to have a holiday of their own and to celebrate the joys of being African American.

Each candle stands for one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

The center black candle is lit on the first day, which symbolizes the struggles of African Americans. The three red candles stand for struggle, work, and creativity. The three green candles represent faith, hope, and love. The first candle is lit on December 26th and the last candle is lit on January 1st.



Every night during Kwanzaa, families light the kinara to honor these seven principles and take time to discuss what each principle means and how they can use it.

Kwanzaa is a time to celebrate African American culture and spread joy and love. Lighting the kinara is an important part of this special holiday. Habari Gani! or wishing you a blessed Kwanza!

©Julia Bochoso

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. What is a kinara? _____

2. When was the first kinara created? _____ By whom? _____

3. What is the holiday Kwanzaa about?
   a. Kwanzaa is a time to celebrate being African American.
   b. Kwanzaa is a time to learn about the struggles of African Americans.
   c. Kwanzaa is a time to remember religion.
   d. Kwanzaa is a time to learn how to light candles.

4. What do the candles on the kinara symbolize?

_____

_____

_____

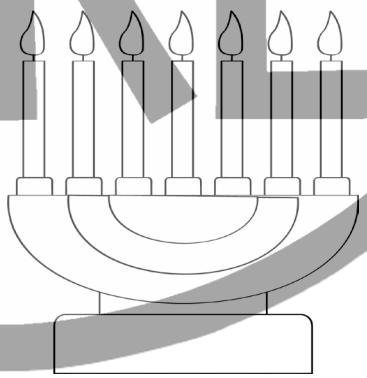
5. Explain what families do each night of Kwanzaa.

_____

_____

_____

6. Color the kinara to show what it looks like.
   Label the candles in the order they are light.



5. Why is the kinara an important part of Kwanzaa?

_____

_____

_____

©Julie Bochorse

PAIRED

Nonfiction Articles & Legends

EXAMPLES FOLLOW

400L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Poinsettia

The poinsettia is a Christmas flower. It is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett. He was the first United States Minister to Mexico. Poinsettias are native to Mexico and Central America. They flower in the winter months.

There is a legend about the poinsettia. In Mexico, a young girl was too poor to give a gift at the celebration of Jesus' birthday. She picked a shrub. She took some of the leaves to church. The leaves turned into blossoms. The red leaves reminded people of the blood of Christ. This was a sign of the true spirit of Christmas.

Today, poinsettias are grown around the world. People give them to friends and family. They come in many colors. They can be red and white or pink and purple.



The legend of the poinsettia is from Mexico.



Poinsettias come in many colors and sizes.

This flower is a symbol of Christmas. It brings good luck and joy. The poinsettia is a reminder of giving. It shows the beauty of nature.

The red leaves symbolize love. It is also a reminder of Jesus. Love can bring us joy during the Christmas season.

The poinsettia is a beautiful flower. It has a story. It reminds us of the real spirit of Christmas.

©Julie Bochsoe

820L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Poinsettia

The poinsettia is a popular Christmas flower. It is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico. Poinsettias are native to Mexico and Central America, where they flower in the winter months.

Legend has it that in Mexico, a young girl was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. The Earth gave her a flowering shrub. She picked some of the red leaves from the roadside plant and took them to church. The leaves turned into blossoms. The brilliant red leaves reminded people of the blood of Christ and his sacrifice. This was seen as a sign of the true spirit of Christmas.

Today, poinsettias are grown in greenhouses around the world. Many people give them to friends and family during the holiday season. They come in a variety of colors, from traditional reds and whites to pinks and purples.



The legend of the poinsettia is from Mexico.



Poinsettias come in many colors and sizes.

This flower is known around the world as a symbol of Christmas. It has been said to bring good luck and joy. The poinsettia is a reminder of giving, as well as the beauty of nature.

The vibrant red color of this flower symbolizes love. When given as a gift, the poinsettia expresses love. It is also a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus made, and how his love can bring us joy during the Christmas season.

The poinsettia is a beautiful flower with an inspiring story behind it. It reminds us of the real spirit of Christmas. From Mexico to homes around the world, the poinsettia is a reminder of the beauty and joy that Christmas can bring.

©Julie Bochsoe

1000L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Poinsettia

The poinsettia is a popular Christmas flower, named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico. Poinsettias are native to Mexico and Central America, where they flower in the winter months.

Legend has it that in Mexico, a young girl was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. The tale goes that the Earth provided her with a flowering shrub. She picked some of the red leaves from the roadside plant and took them to church. The leaves turned into blossoms, whose brilliant red leaves reminded people of the blood of Christ and his sacrifice. This was seen as a sign of the true spirit of Christmas.

Today, poinsettias are grown in greenhouses around the world. Many people give them to friends and family during the holiday season. They are available in a variety of colors, from traditional reds and whites to pinks and purples.



The legend of the poinsettia is from Mexico.



Poinsettias come in many colors and sizes.

This flower has become renowned around the world as a symbol of Christmas. It has been said to bring good fortune and joy to all who have it in their homes. The poinsettia is also a reminder of the importance of giving, as well as the beauty of nature.

The vibrant red color of this flower is thought to symbolize love. When given as a gift, the poinsettia expresses that love to the recipient. It is also a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us, and how his love can bring us joy during the Christmas season.

The poinsettia is a beautiful flower with an inspiring story behind it – one that reminds us of the real spirit of Christmas. From Mexico to homes around the world, the poinsettia is a reminder of the beauty and joy that Christmas can bring.

©Julie Bochoso

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. Who is the poinsettia named after? _____

2. Where are poinsettias from? _____

3. Why is the poinsettia associated with Christmas?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Explain what this quote from the article means:
   This was seen as a sign of the true spirit of Christmas.

_____

_____

_____

5. How have poinsettias changed over time? Choose all that apply.
   a. Poinsettias are grown all around the world.
   b. Poinsettias come in a variety of colors.
   c. Poinsettias are used to represent Mexico.
   d. Poinsettias are used all year long.

6. What do poinsettias symbolize?

_____

_____

_____

MagiCORE

©Julia Bochoso

480L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Pepita's Gift

A long time ago, there was a little girl named Pepita. She lived in Mexico. Pepita loved to sing and dance. One day, she was picking flowers in the forest. She saw a beautiful plant with red leaves. She didn't know what it was. She liked it. Pepita decided to take it home with her.

Pepita got home. She showed her mom the plant. She asked her mom what it was called. Her mom told her it was called a "poinsettia." It was very special. She said that if Pepita sang and danced for the plant every day, its leaves would turn green. Pepita did just that. She sang and danced for her poinsettia every day. Sure enough, its leaves turned green!

Pepita's mom told her that the poinsettia brought good luck and happiness. Pepita kept it in her room.

On Jesus' birthday, Pepita had no gift to give baby Jesus at the celebration of his birth. She was sad. Pepita decided to take her poinsettia. When she got there, all the other children were giving Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts. Pepita was embarrassed. She had nothing to give him. She put the poinsettia at the manger. Its leaves turned red, just like the plant in the forest. Everyone was amazed. They realized that Pepita's gift to Jesus was the most special of all.



From then on, it has been said that whenever you see a poinsettia flower, it is a reminder of Pepita's gift. It is also a reminder of Jesus' birthday. Ever since then, people have been giving poinsettias as gifts. They bring good luck and happiness.

©Julia Bochoso

740L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Pepita's Gift

A long time ago, there was a little girl named Pepita who lived in Mexico. Pepita loved to sing and dance. One day, she was out picking flowers in the forest. She came across a beautiful plant with red leaves. She didn't know what it was, but she liked it and decided to take it home with her.

When Pepita got home, she showed her mom the plant. She asked her mom what it was called. Her mom told her it was called a "poinsettia" and that it was very special. She said that if Pepita sang and danced for the plant every day, its leaves would turn green. Pepita did just that. She sang and danced for her poinsettia every day. Sure enough, its leaves turned green!

Pepita's mom told her that the poinsettia represented good luck and happiness, so she kept it in her room.

On Jesus' birthday, Pepita had no gift to give baby Jesus at the celebration of his birth. She was sad and decided to take her poinsettia with its green leaves. When she got there, all the other children were giving Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Pepita felt embarrassed. She had nothing to give him. But when she placed the poinsettia at the manger, its leaves turned red, just like the plant in the forest. Everyone was amazed. They realized that Pepita's gift to Jesus was the most special of all.



From then on, it has been said that whenever you see a poinsettia flower with its beautiful red leaves, it is a reminder of Pepita's gift. It is also a reminder of Jesus' birthday. Ever since then, people have been giving poinsettias as gifts to bring good luck and happiness.

©Julia Bachosa

970L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Pepita's Gift

A long time ago, there was a little girl named Pepita who lived in Mexico. Pepita loved to sing and dance. One day, she was out picking flowers in the forest when she came across a beautiful plant with red leaves. She didn't know what it was, but she liked it anyway and decided to take it home with her.

When Pepita got home, she showed her mom the plant and asked her what it was called. Her mom told her it was called a "poinsettia" and that it was very special. She said that if Pepita sang and danced for the plant every day, its leaves would turn green. And so, Pepita did just that, singing and dancing for her poinsettia every day. Sure enough, its leaves turned green!

Pepita's mom told her that the poinsettia represented good luck and happiness, so she decided to keep it in her room.

On Jesus' birthday, Pepita had no gift to give baby Jesus at the celebration of his birth. She was sad and decided to take her poinsettia with its green leaves. When she got there, all the other children were giving Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts. Pepita felt embarrassed because she had nothing to give him. But when she placed the poinsettia at the manger, its leaves turned red, just like those of the plant in the forest. Everyone was amazed and realized that Pepita's gift to Jesus was the most special of all.



From then on, it has been said that whenever you see a poinsettia flower with its beautiful red leaves, it is a reminder of what Pepita did and also of Jesus' birthday. And ever since then, people have been giving poinsettias as gifts to bring good luck and happiness to whoever receives them.

©Julia Bachosa

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. Who is the main character in this story? Describe her with details from the story.

2. What is the setting of this story? Why is the setting important?

3. Why is the event where Pepita finds the poinsettia in the forest important to the rest of the plot?

4. How did Pepita feel when she went to the celebration of Jesus' birth? Why?

5. What lesson did Pepita and the others learn?
   a. Poinsettias bring people joy.
   b. The smallest gifts can hold the most meaning.
   c. Traditions should be passed on through generations.
   d. Mexico is important because this is where the poinsettia came from.

Tagl CORE

©Julia Bochoso

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Response

How do *The History of the Poinsettia* and *Pepita's Gift* help deepen your understanding of the meaning behind the poinsettia? Explain how information and details from both passages can help you understand the topic more specifically.

©Julia Bachosa

590L

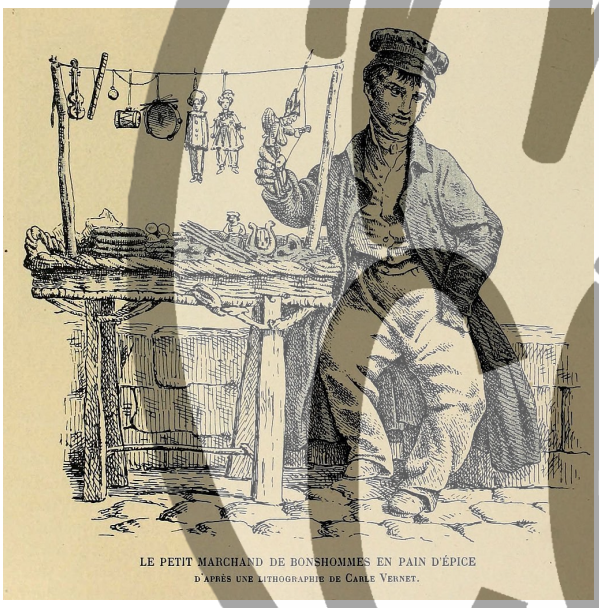
Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Gingerbread Person



The gingerbread cookie is a classic Christmas dessert. Did you know it has been around for centuries? This cookie has become a holiday staple around the world.

There are many legends about where this cookie came from. One legend is that a German monk made the gingerbread man. He did this to keep children happy during Lent.



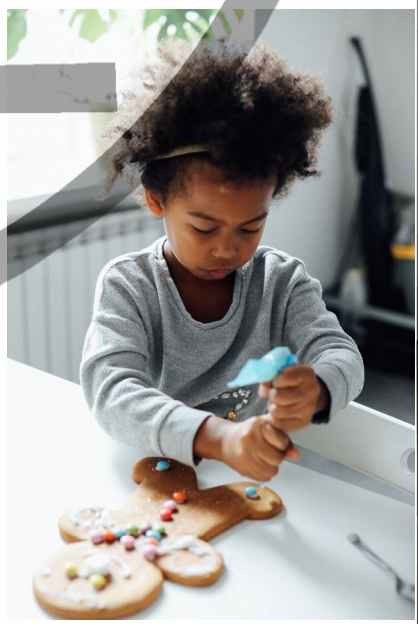
A gingerbread salesman in 1902.

Another legend says that it was made in the 17th century by a baker. He wanted to make a treat for the royal court. The royal court loved it. They made it a festive treat for Christmas.

Another legend says a gingerbread man was made to honor the three wise men.

We don't know which legend is true. But this cookie has been enjoyed by people all over the world for many years.

The first recipe was made in Germany in the early 1800s. The gingerbread man cookie is made with flour, spices, butter, and molasses. The dough is then rolled out. It is cut into different shapes. It is often cut into a man or woman. The gingerbread man is decorated with icing. Other decorations make it festive. The cookies are baked until golden brown. They are enjoyed as a Christmas treat.



The gingerbread man is a festive and delicious treat that everyone can enjoy!

©Julie Bochese

820L

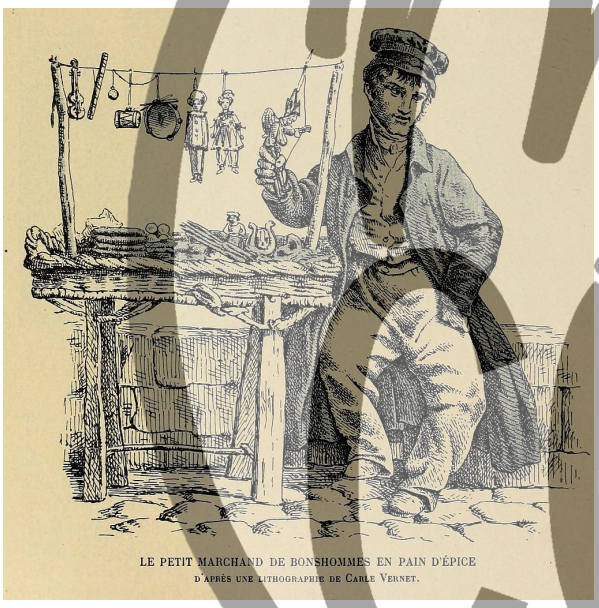
Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Gingerbread Person

The gingerbread cookie is a classic Christmas dessert. But did you know it has been around for centuries? Over the years, this delicious cookie has become a holiday staple around the world.



There are many legends about the origins of this cookie. One legend is that a German monk invented the gingerbread man to keep children amused during Lent.



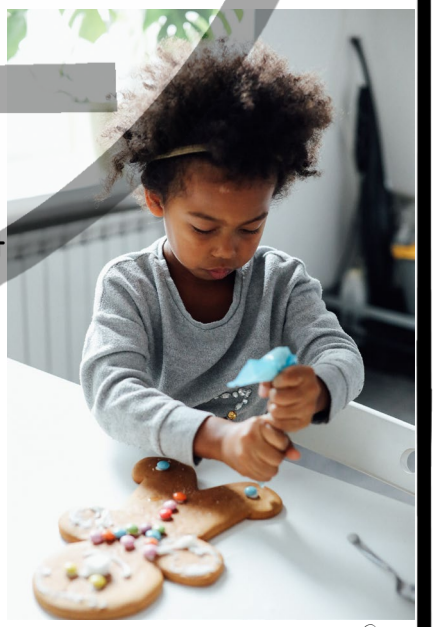
A gingerbread salesman in 1902.

Another legend says that it was created in the 17th century by a baker. He wanted to make a cake-like treat for the royal court. The royal court loved it so much that they made it a festive treat for Christmas.

Another legend says a gingerbread man was baked to honor the three wise men.

Whatever the origins of the gingerbread man, it has been enjoyed by people all over the world for many years.

The first recipe was created in Germany in the early 1800s. The gingerbread man cookie is traditionally made with flour, spices, butter, and molasses. The dough is then rolled out and cut into different shapes. It is most commonly cut into a man or woman. The gingerbread man is decorated with colorful icing and other decorations to make it festive. The cookies are baked until golden brown. They are enjoyed as a Christmas treat.



The gingerbread man is a festive and delicious treat that everyone can enjoy!

©Julie Bochese

1020L

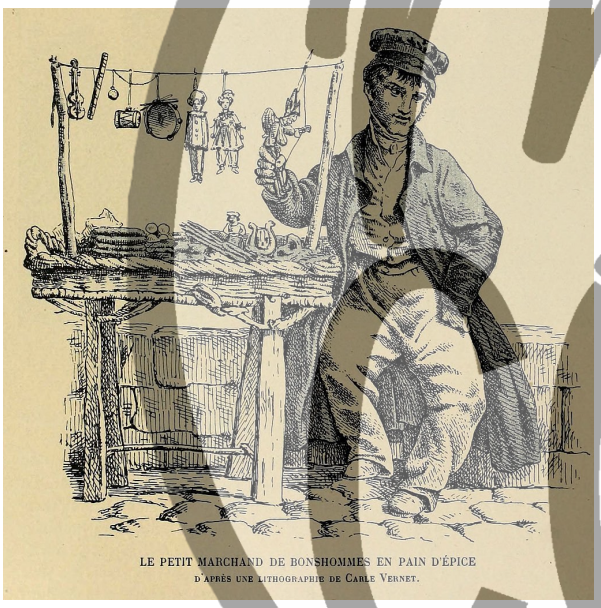
Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The History of the Gingerbread Cookie

The gingerbread man cookie is a classic Christmas dessert. But did you know it has been around for centuries? Over the years, this delicious cookie has become a staple of holiday baking around the world.



There are many legends and stories about the origins of this delicious treat. One legend is that a German monk invented the gingerbread man to keep children amused during Lent.



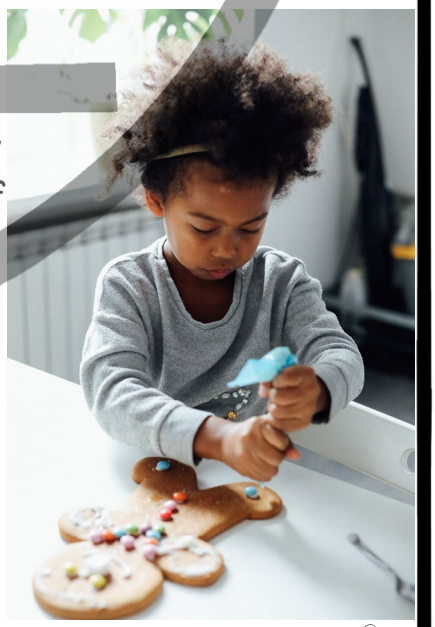
A gingerbread salesman in 1902.

Another legend states that it was created in the 17th century by a baker trying to make a cake-like treat for the royal court. The royal court loved it so much that they made it a festive treat for Christmas.

Another legend says a gingerbread man was baked to honor the visit of the three wise men.

Whatever the true origins of the gingerbread man may be, it has been enjoyed by people all over the world for many years.

It is believed that the first recipe was created in Germany in the early 1800s. The gingerbread man cookie is traditionally made with a combination of flour, spices, butter, and molasses to form a soft dough. This dough is then rolled out and cut into different shapes, most commonly of a man or woman. The gingerbread man is then decorated with colorful icing and other decorations to make it even more festive. The cookies are baked until golden brown and then enjoyed as a Christmas treat.



The gingerbread man is a festive and delicious treat that everyone can enjoy!

©Julie Bochese

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. Where was the first recipe for the gingerbread man created?
   a. Italy
   b. Spain
   c. Germany
   d. France

2. Why is the gingerbread cookie important?

_____

_____

_____

3. Which of the following legends explains where the gingerbread cookie came from? Choose all that apply.
   a. A German monk
   b. For well-behaved children
   c. A royal court baker
   d. To honor the wise men

4. According to legend, why is the gingerbread cookie used for Christmas?

_____

_____

_____

5. Summarize how the gingerbread cookie is traditionally made.

_____

_____

_____

©Julia Bochoso

550L

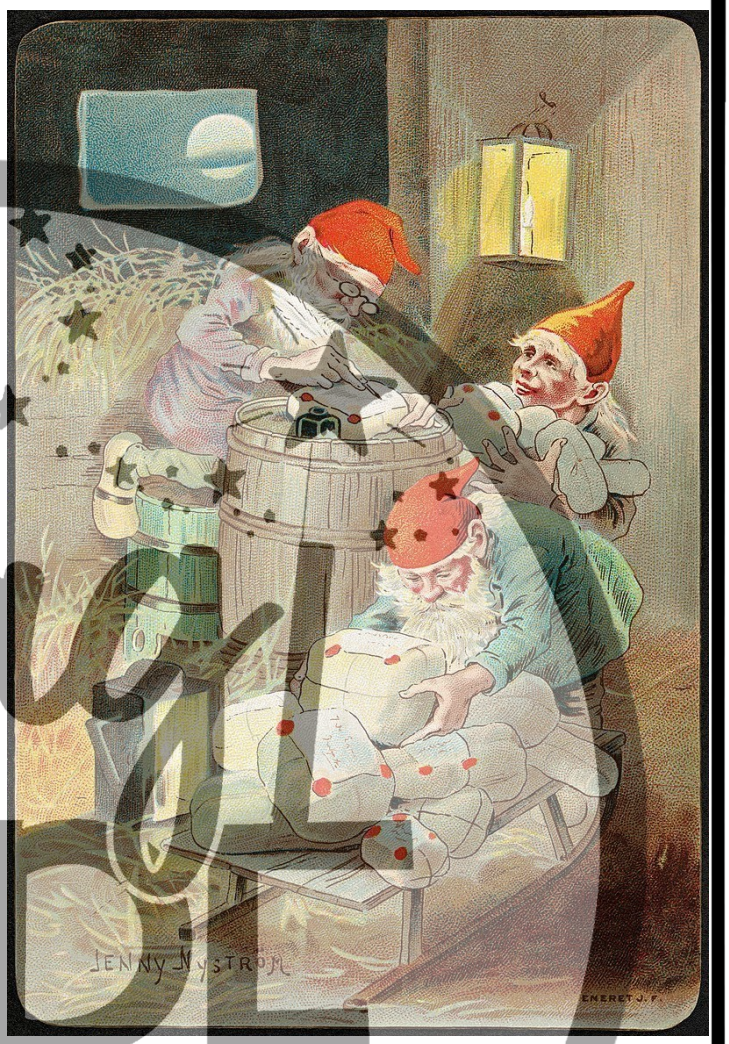
Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Scandinavian Nisse Doll

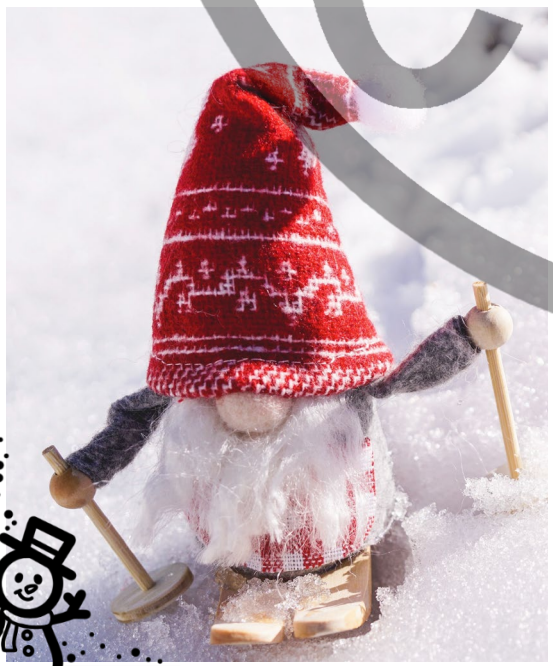
The Nisse doll is a Christmas character in Scandinavia. He is small and elf-like. He lives in an attic or barn. The Nisse doll is often made out of straw or cloth. His face is hand-painted. He is known for being mischievous. He is also helpful around the house. Some people believe that the Nisse brings good luck and prosperity to the home during Christmas. People leave a bowl of porridge or milk out for the Nisse on Christmas Eve.

The Nisse is an old man with a long white beard. He wears a woolen cap and sweater. He has a rattle to keep evil spirits away. He may carry a bag of gifts or a pitchfork. They are guardians of the home. They protect the home from fire and theft. They can also help around the house with cleaning or sweeping.

The origin of the Nisse is unknown. It is believed that they have been around since Viking times. Today, the Nisse doll can be found in many homes during Christmas. He is a symbol of joy. He is a reminder of how important family and tradition are.



A Swedish Christmas Card depicting the Nisse



The Nisse is an important part of Christmas in Scandinavia. He is loved by children and adults. He reminds people that good deeds should be rewarded. He reminds us the Christmas spirit should be shared with family and friends. It is important to keep traditions alive. It is important to cherish those around us. It is important to remember that small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

This holiday season, use the Nisse in your celebrations. Let him bring joy into your home!

©Julia Bochoso

820L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Scandinavian Nisse Doll

The Nisse doll is a traditional Christmas character in Scandinavia. He is a small, elf-like creature who lives in an attic or barn. The Nisse doll is often made out of straw or cloth. His face is hand-painted. He is known for being mischievous, but also helpful around the house. Some people believe that the Nisse brings good luck and prosperity to the home during the Christmas season. Some people even leave a bowl of porridge or milk out for the Nisse on Christmas Eve.



A Swedish Christmas Card depicting the Nisse

The Nisse is usually depicted as an old man with a long white beard. He wears a woolen cap and a knitted sweater. He often carries a rattle to ward off evil spirits. He is also seen carrying a sack of gifts or a pitchfork. They are believed to be the guardians of the home. They protect the home from fire and theft. They can also help with tasks around the house such as cleaning or sweeping.

The origin of the Nisse is unknown, but it is believed that they have been around since Viking times. Today, the Nisse doll can be found in many homes during the Christmas season. He has become a symbol of joy and happiness. He is a reminder of how important family and tradition are at this special time of year.



The Nisse is an important part of Christmas in Scandinavia. He has become a beloved character among children and adults alike. He serves as a reminder that good deeds should be rewarded. He reminds us the Christmas spirit should be shared with family and friends. It is important to keep traditions alive, to cherish those around us, and to remember that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

So, this holiday season, include the Nisse in your celebrations and let him bring some extra joy into your home!

©Julia Bochoso

1000L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Scandinavian Nisse Doll

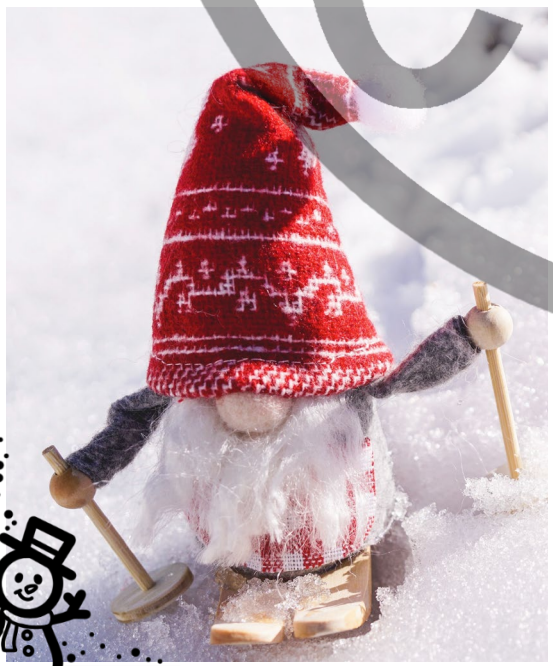
The Nisse doll is a traditional Christmas character in Scandinavia. He is a small, elf-like creature who often lives in the attic or barn. The Nisse doll is often made out of straw or cloth, and his face is usually hand-painted. He is known for being mischievous, but also helpful around the house. Some people believe that the Nisse brings good luck and prosperity to the home during the Christmas season. Some people even leave a bowl of porridge or milk out for the Nisse on Christmas Eve.



A Swedish Christmas Card depicting the Nisse

The Nisse is usually depicted as an old man with a long white beard, wearing a woolen cap and a knitted sweater. He often carries a rattle to ward off evil spirits. He is also seen carrying a sack of gifts or a pitchfork. They are believed to be the guardians of the home, protecting it from fire and theft. They can also help with tasks around the house such as cleaning or sweeping.

The origin of the Nisse is unknown, but it is believed that they have been around since Viking times. Today, the Nisse doll can be found in many homes during the Christmas season. He has become a symbol of joy and happiness for all Scandinavians. He is a reminder of how important family and tradition are at this special time of year.



The Nisse is an important part of Christmas in Scandinavia and has become a beloved character among children and adults alike. He serves as a reminder that good deeds should be rewarded and that the Christmas spirit should be shared with family and friends. He is a reminder to keep traditions alive, cherish those around us, and remember that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

So, this holiday season, include the Nisse in your celebrations and let him bring some extra joy into your home!

©Julie Barnes

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. Describe what the Nisse look like.

2. According to the legend, where do the Nisse live? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. A snowy village
   b. Scandinavia
   c. In an attic or barn
   d. With the Vikings

3. How do the Nisse help people?

4. How do people use the Nisse to celebrate the holiday season? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. They put the Nisse in their barns and attics.
   b. They leave the Nisse porridge or milk.
   c. They bake for the Nisse.
   d. They put Nisse dolls in their homes.

5. What do the Nisse symbolize for Scandinavians?

©Julia Bochoso

The Legend of the Nisse

Long ago, in the land of Scandinavia, there lived a magical creature. This creature was the Nisse. They were very mischievous. Nisse loved to play tricks on people. However, they were also known to be very kind and helpful, especially to children.

Many stories were told about the Nisse. Each one was different. Some people said that they were tiny elves who helped Santa Claus deliver presents on Christmas Eve. Others said that they were small gnomes who guarded farms against harm. No one knew for sure what the Nisse really were. But everyone believed in them.

One winter evening, a young girl named Sarah was walking home from school. She saw a small figure in her garden. At first, she thought it was a stray cat. She got closer. She could see that it was a Nisse! The Nisse smiled at her and waved hello.

Sarah was so excited to meet a real live Nisse! She asked him what he was doing. She invited him to come inside for hot cocoa. The Nisse agreed. He followed Sarah into her home.

Sarah made hot cocoa for her new friend. She sat down with him to chat. The Nisse told her all about his adventures playing tricks on people. Sarah laughed. She shared some of her own stories about being tricked on Halloween night.



The two of them had such a good time together. Sarah forgot all about being cold outside. It was late. Sarah didn't want the Nisse to leave. She gave him a big hug goodbye. She promised to visit him again soon. From then on, Sarah visited her friend every time she went by her garden. They became best friends. The Nisse even helped her with her homework from time to time!

Sarah kept her Nisse friend in her heart forever. Whenever Sarah needed a little boost of courage or happiness, she thought of her friend. He always made her feel better.

Thanks to stories like Sarah's, the legend of the Nisse is alive today.

©Julie Bochorse

710L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Legend of the Nisse

Long ago, in the land of Scandinavia, there lived a magical creature. This creature was known as the Nisse. They were said to be very mischievous. Nisse loved to play tricks on people. However, they were also known to be very kind and helpful, especially to children.

Many stories were told about the Nisse, and each one was different. Some people said that they were tiny elves who helped Santa Claus deliver presents to children on Christmas Eve. Others said that they were small gnomes who guarded farms and livestock against harm. No one knew for sure what the Nisse really were. But everyone believed in them, nonetheless.

One winter evening, a young girl named Sarah was walking home from school. She saw a small figure standing in her garden. At first, she thought it was just a stray cat. As she got closer, she could see that it was a Nisse! The little creature smiled at her and waved hello.

Sarah was so excited to meet a real live Nisse! She asked him what he was doing, then invited him to come inside for hot cocoa. The Nisse agreed happily. He followed Sarah into her home.

Once inside, Sarah made some hot cocoa for her new friend. She sat down with him to chat. The Nisse told her all about his adventures playing tricks on people around town. Sarah laughed and shared some of her own stories about being tricked on Halloween night.

The two of them had such a good time together. Sarah forgot all about being cold outside. In fact, she didn't want the Nisse to leave when it started getting late. She gave him a big hug goodbye. She promised to visit him again soon. From then on, Sarah was sure to visit her new friend the Nisse every time she went by her garden. They became best friends, and the Nisse even helped her with her homework from time to time!



The Nisse had made such an impression on Sarah that she decided to keep him in her heart forever. From then on, whenever Sarah needed a little boost of courage or happiness, she thought of her friend the Nisse and felt better.

Thanks to stories like Sarah's, the legend of the Nisse remains alive today.

Mag CORE

950L

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Legend of the Nisse

Long ago, in the land of Scandinavia, there lived a magical creature known as the Nisse. These little creatures were said to be very mischievous and loved to play tricks on people. However, they were also known to be very kind and helpful, especially to children.

Many stories were told about the Nisse, and each one was different. Some people said that they were tiny elves who helped Santa Claus deliver presents to children on Christmas Eve. Others said that they were small gnomes who guarded farms and livestock against harm. No one knew for sure what the Nisse really were, but everyone believed in them, nonetheless.

One winter evening, a young girl named Sarah was walking home from school when she saw a small figure standing in her garden. At first, she thought it was just a stray cat, but as she got closer, she could see that it was a Nisse! The little creature smiled at her and waved hello.

Sarah was so excited to meet a real live Nisse! She asked him what he was doing there and if he wanted to come inside for some hot cocoa. The Nisse agreed happily and followed Sarah into her home.

Once inside, Sarah made some hot cocoa for her new friend and sat down with him to chat. The Nisse told her all about his adventures playing tricks on people around town. Sarah laughed and shared some of her own stories about being tricked on Halloween night.

The two of them had such a good time together that Sarah forgot all about being cold outside. In fact, she didn't want the Nisse to leave when it started getting late. She gave him a big hug goodbye and promised to visit him again soon. From then on, Sarah was sure to visit her new friend the Nisse every time she went by her garden. They became best friends, and the Nisse even helped her with her homework from time to time!



The Nisse had made such a positive impression on Sarah that she decided to keep him in her heart forever. From then on, whenever Sarah needed a little boost of courage or happiness, she thought of her friend the Nisse and felt better.

Thanks to stories like Sarah's, the legend of the Nisse remains alive today.

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. Where does this story take place? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. A cold, winter evening
   b. A village in Scandinavia
   c. In a garden
   d. On Christmas Day

2. How did Sarah feel about meeting a Nisse? How did the Nisse feel about meeting Sarah? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

3. What happened when the Nisse came into Sarah's home?

_____

_____

_____

4. How could you describe the Nisse? Choose all that apply.
   a. Friendly
   b. Mischievous and silly
   c. Untrustworthy
   d. Problematic

5. What lesson did Sarah learn?

_____

_____

6. Why is Sarah's story about the Nisse important?

_____

_____

_____

©Julia Bachosa

Holiday Symbols Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Response

How do *The Scandinavian Nisse Doll* and *The Legend of the Nisse* help deepen your understanding of the Scandinavian Nisse? Explain how information and details from both passages can help you understand the topic more specifically.

MagiCORE

©Julia Bochoso

Terms of Use

How Can I Use This Resource?

Thank you for trusting MagiCore. Our mission is to create resources that support teachers and promote student success. Please note that this resource is licensed for use by a single teacher in a classroom setting. If you need to use this resource with more than one teacher and/or across multiple classrooms, additional licenses are available at a discount. You can purchase additional licenses by visiting your TPT "Purchases" page and then selecting "Download Additional Licenses" or by contacting me at julie@magicorelearning.com.



Good to Go

- Use this resource personally or with your own children.
- Use this resource in your own classroom with your students.
- Provide this resource to your students to use at your instruction.
- Print and/or copy for use in your own classroom.
- Provide printed pages to a substitute teacher with the sole purpose of instructing your students.
- Share with your students via a secure document portal or electronic learning platform that requires individual user verification and limits access to only the students in your own classroom (e.g. Google Classroom).
- Review this resource with others with the sole purpose of recommending it to others for purchase, provided you share one of the links below:

https://magicorelearning.com/

https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Magicore



Not O.K.

- Share with others to use personally.
- Share with others to use in another classroom.
- Print or copy any page(s) and distribute them to other teachers or other classrooms.
- Publish or host online in a manner where any of the material is accessible to anyone who is not a student in your own classroom., including but not limited to personal, classroom, or district websites that are accessible to the general public.
- Use this resource commercially (e.g. Outschool).
- Publish, sell, or otherwise distribute this product to anyone in manner inconsistent with these terms of use.

© Copyright 2015, 2022. All rights reserved. The unlicensed reproduction or distribution of this product is strictly prohibited. Permission is granted to the original purchaser or licensee to make copies to use with students and/or to assign to students digitally providing it is only available to students assigned directly to the purchaser. Placing this product in any manner that makes it accessible to the general public is strictly forbidden. Commercial use, including but not limited to online or in person classes, is prohibited. Contact julie@magicorelearning.com for commercial licensing information. Sharing without permission or hosting online in a public manner is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). These terms may be updated at any time. You can see the most up to date Terms of Use at https://magicorelearning.com/terms-of-use.

Let's Connect!

www.magicorelearning.com

https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Magicore

https://www.facebook.com/Magicorelearning/

https://www.instagram.com/magicorelearning

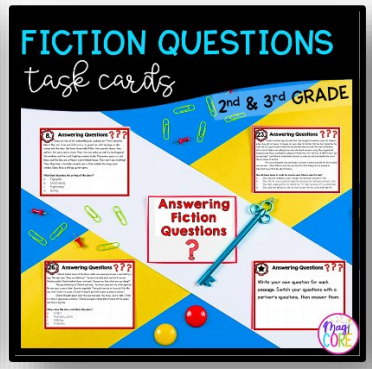
https://www.pinterest.com/magicorelearning/

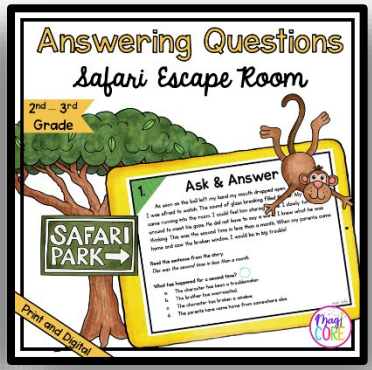
Julie@magicorelearning.com

Looking for more?









CREDITS

Erika Smith, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

Talking with Rebecca