

PAIRED TEXTS

Diwali

Diwali is the most important holiday in India. It is celebrated in October or November each year, depending on the lunar calendar. The festival runs for five days. The main celebration happens on the third day. The holiday celebrates religious stories of victory of good over evil. This is a part of Hinduism. The followers of this religion are called Hindus. Hindus see light as a symbol of knowledge and goodness. Lighting a lamp symbolizes destroying evil forces. Hindus also believe this protects their souls from evil darkness. Diwali actually means, "rows of light." This is exactly what the Hindus create. They burn rows of small oil-filled clay lamps, called *diyas*, during this celebration. The oil in the *diyas* represents bad things like hatred, anger, greed, and jealousy. The wick represents their soul. The *diya* then symbolizes lighting their soul to remove these bad things. (The oil burns when the wick is lit, so the oil disappears.) Hindus will light *diyas* all over their home. It is especially important to place them in corners. This way, the Hindus say there is no room for darkness to enter.



Special events and prayers happen over the five days of Diwali. On the first day, houses and businesses are cleaned. They are also colorfully decorated. Hindus do this to welcome Lakshmi. She is the Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. On the morning of the second day, the women make *rangoli*. *Rangoli* are beautiful designs. They are made with colored powders and sand on the floor and in courtyards. The third day is the main day of the celebration. On the third day, families and neighbors gather together. They pray to the Goddess Lakshmi. They also exchange gifts and sweets, and feast together. Then they light fireworks and sparklers in the streets. The fourth day is celebrated in different ways across India. In the western states of India, brothers

Diwali Traditions

Food is a big part of the Diwali festivities. The sweet treats, called *mithai*, are especially important. A month before Diwali begins, women get together to make snacks and sweets. They make them to eat and to give away during the five-day celebration. The most common ingredient in the sweets is milk. Milk can be turned into cheeses, fudge, pudding, or ice cream. Chickpeas, rice, coconut, and spices are also key ingredients in Diwali desserts. The fifth day of Diwali is another day women spend in the kitchen. They usually make their brothers' favorite foods. They also make special pastries. They are filled with... In India...

We have been working through these paired texts and the kids love reading and learning about things they weren't aware of. The questions bring up great discussions and sometimes even research opportunities too! Great resource!



FOR EVERY PAIR:

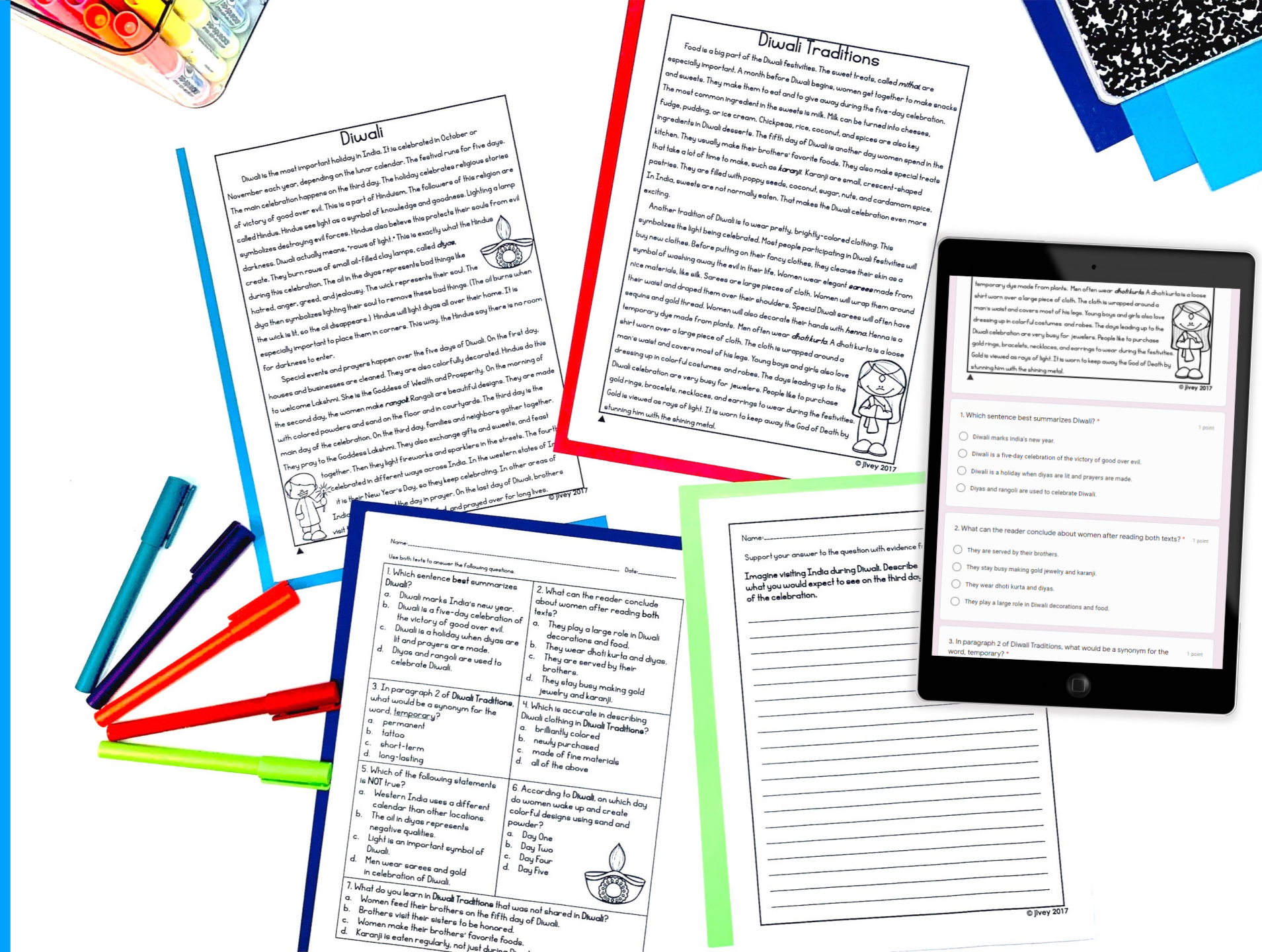
two levels of each passage for differentiation

digital (self-grading) and printable formats

seven multiple choice questions (each question assessing a different standard)

one constructed response essay prompt

two styles of articles: 2-column and full page



TWO LEVELS PROVIDED OF EVERY PASSAGE

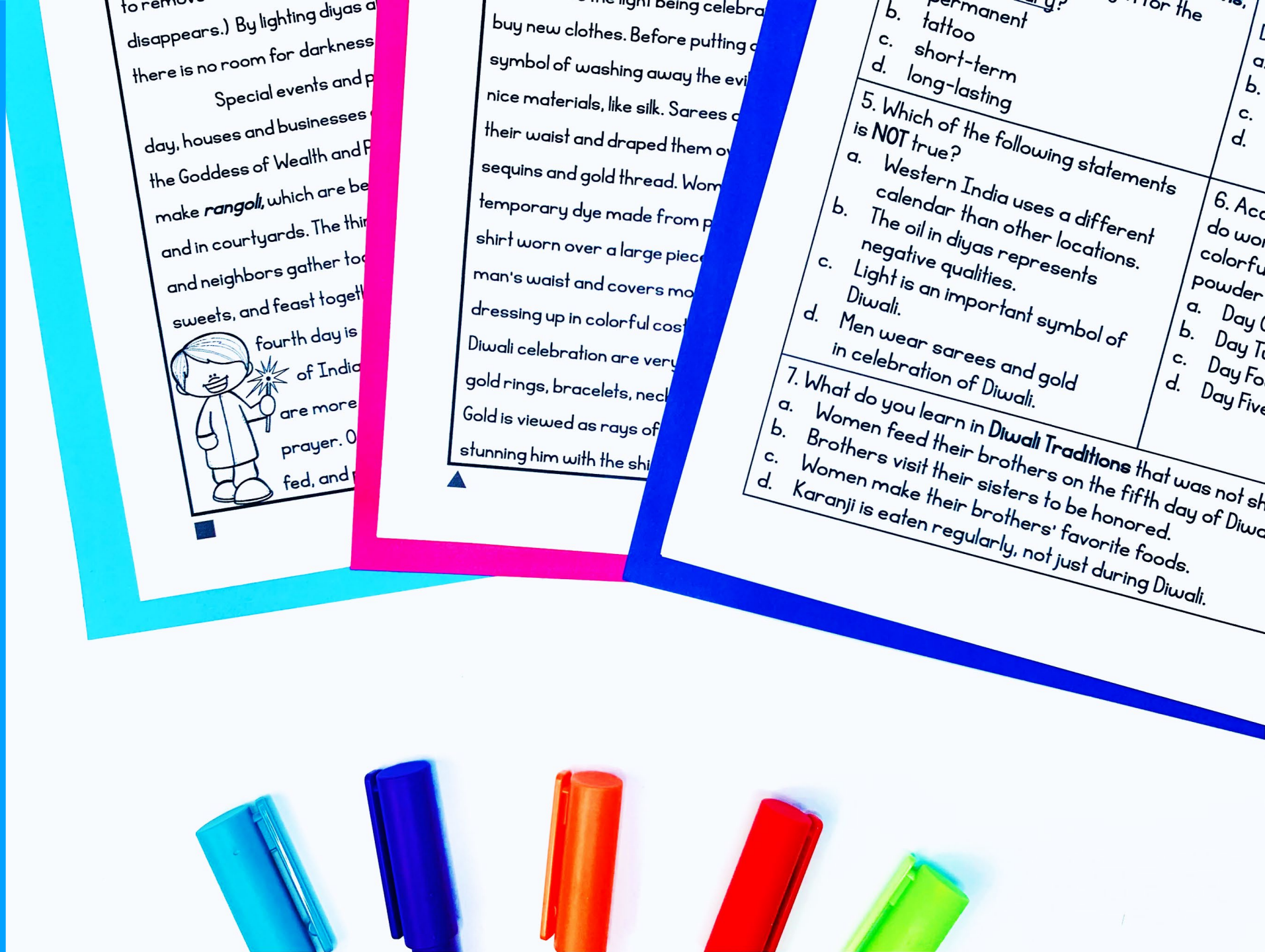
on grade level for 4-5

AND

on grade level for 6-7

discreet symbols on the
passages to denote the
level of passage

the same questions can
be answered no matter
the level given



PASSAGES INCLUDED:

★ the Festivals of Lights that occur in Thailand, Taiwan, and China compared to the International Balloon Fiesta in the US.

★ Diwali, and the holiday's food and clothing traditions.

★ Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and Catrina: the icon of the holiday.

ANSWER KEYS NOTE CORE STANDARDS

HOT-AIR BALLOONS

Imagine standing in a basket and slowly ascending into the sky with a loud WHOOSH of fire from the burners at the base of a colorful balloon. Once you are up in the air, you go where the winds take you! At the very top of the balloon, there is a parachute vent. When you are ready to descend back to the ground, the vent is opened, the hot air escapes, cool air rushes in, and you gently lower to Earth.

Now imagine standing with 100,000 onlookers in a park the size of fifty-four football fields, filled with hundreds of hot-air balloons! You would be attending the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in New Mexico, USA, held annually in October. The Balloon Fiesta has grown each year since 1972, and today, it is the largest balloon festival in the world. Hundreds of hot-air balloons fill the sky with gorgeous, bright colors. Some of the hot-air balloons are even designed in unique shapes like cows, monsters, and soda cans! The beauty of the spectacular colors of the balloons draws photographers to this event. It is the world's most photographed event, with twenty-five million pictures taken during the week of festivities.

There are also other events during the week-long fiesta, such as concerts and fireworks. However, the majority of the events revolve around the balloons. Aside from the main events, called Mass Ascensions, where hundreds of balloons are launched at the same time, there are other events with fewer balloons that are just as fun to view. Each morning, there is an event called the Dawn Patrol where a dozen balloons perform a launch program set to music. There is also a Glow-in-the-Dark Balloon Festival where all of the balloons are lit up at night. The competition is fierce as they aim to be the most colorful target on the night sky. A winner is chosen at the end of the festival.

Festival of Lights

A tradition in Chiang Mai, Thailand that has been around for hundreds of years now brings visitors from all over the world in mid-November. The Yi Peng Festival is a celebration of the full moon in the second month of the Lanna calendar. Yi, translated from Lanna, means "second" and Peng means "month." The Chiang Mai locals decorate their homes with flags and lanterns, put on dance shows, and have a parade around the Old City gate. However, that is not what travelers come to see. Visitors want to witness the release of sky lanterns. These lanterns are made of rice paper. Inside the lantern, there is a small candle. When the candle is lit, the heat rises and launches the lantern into the air. During Yi Peng, hundreds of lanterns are released into the air at once. The Lanna people of Northern Thailand believe that releasing the lantern and seeing it disappear before the fire goes out will end a person's bad luck.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

How are sky lanterns and hot-air balloons the same? R9

The response may include, but is not limited to:

- They both use flames/heat to rise into the air.
- They are both fascinating to watch and draw many observers.
- Lanterns are a symbol and used in cultural traditions.
- Hot-air balloons are large enough to carry people.
- Lanterns burn up in the sky, while hot-air balloons return.

In addition to Chinese New Year, these calendars, children go out with lanterns, or even made in animal shapes, and let them go of their past selves. At the start of spring when it was a sky lanterns as a prayer for the families that all was well. The Taiwan Tourism Bureau in 1990, In wishes and released into the sky. The with travelers who come to see the

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Diwali

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Special events and prayers happen over the five-day celebration. Houses and businesses are cleaned and colorfully decorated. The Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity, Lakshmi, is worshipped. On the morning of the first day, people make rangoli, which are beautiful designs with colored powders, in their homes and in courtyards. The third day is the main day of the festival, and neighbors gather together to pray to the Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity, Lakshmi, and feast together. They also light fireworks. The fourth day is celebrated in different ways. In India, it is their New Year's Day, and there are more celebrations. In other areas, people pray. On the last day of Diwali, people clean their homes and pray for long lives.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Use both texts to answer the following questions.

1. Which sentence best summarizes Diwali?
a. Diwali marks India's new year.
b. Diwali is a five-day celebration of the victory of good over evil.
c. Diwali is a holiday when diyas are lit and prayers are made.
d. Diyas and rangoli are used to celebrate Diwali. R1

2. What can the reader conclude about women after reading both texts?
a. They play a large role in Diwali decorations and food.
b. They wear saris to Diwali.
c. They are served by their brothers.
d. They play busy making gold jewelry and rangoli. R2

3. In paragraph 2 of Diwali Traditions, what would be a synonym for the word, temporary?
a. permanent
b. tattoo
c. short-term
d. long-lasting R3

4. Which is accurate in describing Diwali clothing?
a. brightly colored
b. newly purchased
c. made of fine materials
d. all of the above R4

5. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
a. Western India uses a different calendar than other locations.
b. The oil in diyas represents negative qualities.
c. Light is an important symbol of Diwali.
d. Men wear saris and gold in celebration of Diwali. R5

6. According to Diwali, on which day do women wake up and create colorful designs using sand and powder?
a. Day One
b. Day Two
c. Day Four
d. Day Five R6

7. What do you learn in Diwali Traditions that was not shared in Diwali?
a. Women feed their brothers on the fifth day of Diwali.
b. Brothers visit their sisters to be honored.
c. Women make their brothers' favorite foods.
d. Karanj is eaten regularly, not just during Diwali. R7



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Food is a large part of the Diwali festivities, especially the sweet treats, which they call *mithai*. A month before Diwali begins, women get together to make the snacks and sweets that they will eat as well as give away during the five-day celebration. Most treats are not baked in an oven. They are fried in oil or butter on the stove, or cooked over a fire. The most common ingredient in the sweets is milk because it can be turned into cheeses, fudge, pudding, or ice cream. Chickpeas, rice, coconut, and spices are also key ingredients in Diwali desserts. The fifth day of Diwali is another day women spend in the kitchen. They prepare their favorite foods, or *karanj*, for the festival.



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Catrina

In the early 1900s, José Guadalupe Posada, a famous Mexican illustrator, drew a female skeleton in a fancy French hat. At that time, Posada saw Mexican natives imitating sophisticated, rich European society, as though they were ashamed of their culture. Posada was trying to show in his art that in the end, everyone will be a skeleton...we are all the same underneath it all.

In 1947, Diego Rivera, a man married to the famous artist Frida Kahlo, included Posada's skeleton in his mural. The mural is called *Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in Alameda Park* and is located in Mexico City. He dressed her in fancy clothing and accessories, and named the skeleton Calavera Catrina, which means elegant skull. Catrina is also slang for, "the rich." Although Posada created her originally, it was Rivera that made her popular. She became one of the most well-known symbols of the holiday, the Day of the Dead. There are Catrina parades each year on the holiday, and in 2016, the largest gathering of people dressed up as Catrina happened with 865 participants in Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico.

Marina Lozano, an arts and craft teacher also from Guanajuato, Mexico says, "For us Mexicans, death does not scare us, on the contrary, we dress her up nicely, we turn it into candy to eat it, and we craft it with different materials to be able to admire it as part of our culture. This is why, even in the United States, Mexican immigrants display Catrina to show unity and cultural pride."



CALAVERA CATRINA

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DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Día de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated mostly in Mexico. In English, that means the "Day of the Dead." It is celebrated on the first two days of November. This holiday is a joyful demonstration of respect and love for ancestors. It is a celebration for ancestors who have died. The tradition for Mexicans is to smile at death. They aren't afraid of death or sad about it. The Day of the Dead is meant to celebrate the life that people did get to live. The first tradition of the holiday is to create an altar, or *ofrenda*, for the dead. Families and communities set up homes and cemeteries. Life-size skeletons, called *calacas*, are made of paper, clay, and plastic. They decorate the towns. Calacas can be found everywhere. They wear colorful clothing. They are posed to look like they are doing everyday things, like playing guitar, cooking, and dancing. Giant skeleton floats are made for parades, too.



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Leveled **GRADES 4-6**
PAIRED TEXTS
FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR!

LEGEND OF LOCHNESS
Could there really be a giant monster lurking in the depths of a Scottish loch? It's possible that in the 19th century, a man named Thomas Monaghan was the first to suggest that there was a monster living in the Loch Ness. He said he was looking at some old maps and he saw a line that looked like a monster's back. He said he was looking at some old maps and he saw a line that looked like a monster's back. He said he was looking at some old maps and he saw a line that looked like a monster's back.

MEGALODON: NOT A MYTH
Megalodon means "big tooth." When scientists who study fish, called paleontologists, found these teeth, they knew they were looking at something that was not a shark. These huge teeth have been found all over the world. Many people who found these teeth believe a monster lived there. The fossils of these teeth were found in the same places as the fossils of the dinosaurs. This was the first time that people found these teeth. They were the largest of all the teeth that have ever been found. They were the largest of all the teeth that have ever been found.

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it out!

Amber S. 5th Grade Teacher