

STANDARDS-BASED DIFFERENTIATED ASSESSMENTS



INCLUDES
SELF-GRADING
DIGITAL FORMAT


Name: _____ Date: _____

Ants: Nature's Gardeners

Next time you see an anthill in your yard, think twice about stamping it into smithereens! Some people believe ants are pests, but actually, they are our partners. Pests are creatures that destroy crops or carry diseases. Ants are not pests because they help our gardens and our environment.

Ants live and work in groups called colonies, and they are natural diggers. They dig tunnels into the ground which lead to chambers where they store their food and protect their eggs. When ants create their hills and tunnels, they are helping to turn, or *aerate* the soil. This allows the roots of plants to grow deeper because the soil is not as firm, and it also allows water to soak into the soil. As ants carry pebbles, dirt, and other materials out of the tunnels to create the chambers where they live, they form a mound, or anthill.

Ants are decomposers that help keep our environment clean by eating waste and dead animals. Ants bring food to the colony, and the leftover matter and waste becomes nutrients for the soil. Ants also collect seeds in the chambers. They don't eat the actual seed, only the outer shell. A new plant will sprout where the seed was left. When animals transport a seed from one place to another, allowing it to grow in a new location, they are called seed dispersers. They are vital for new



Ants carry a beetle to their mound for the colony to eat. Ants are very strong and can carry items that are thousands of times heavier than they are!

aerate (air-eyt) to allow air to enter

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Answer these questions about Ants: Nature's Gardeners. R6

Which of the following sentences would probably most match the point of view of the author of the passage?

Ants are dangerous creatures that should be killed.

Answer these questions about Ants: Nature's Gardeners. R5

What information do you learn in the caption that you don't learn in the body of the article?

Answer these questions about Ants: Nature's Gardeners. R4

The author describes ants as "garden protectors." What does the author mean?

Which word can be used in place of sprout in the following sentence?

A new plant will sprout where the seed was left.

a. wither b. waste
c. die d. grow

What strategy did you use to help you understand how ants are decomposers?

a. I re-read the first paragraph.
b. I re-read the second paragraph.
c. I continued reading the third paragraph.
d. I continued reading the fourth paragraph.

Based on what you read in the passage, what word is a synonym for disperse?

a. concentrate b. scatter
c. collect d. eat

Re-read the first paragraph. Write your answer.

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R.4

R.5

R.6



DISCREETLY LEVELED WITH SYMBOLS:

◆ 2ND GRADE ▲ 3RD GRADE ● 4TH GRADE ■ 5TH GRADE

Name: _____ Date: _____

Underwater Forests

When you think of forests, you probably think of those on land, like pine forests or rainforests. But did you know there are underwater forests, too? These forests are filled with hundreds of living organisms, including plants called algae. Sometimes this algae is called seaweed.


One type of seaweed is a brown algae called giant kelp: the tallest of all the underwater plants. Kelp is a fast-growing plant that lives in cool, shallow ocean water. It can grow over one foot longer each day, growing as long as 100 feet! A small area of kelp is called a bed, while the large areas are called kelp forests. These underwater forests stretch for miles along the west coast of North America.

Giant kelp has a stem called a stipe. A stipe is like a thick, flexible piece of rope which helps the kelp bend and wave as the water moves. Leaf-like blades grow from the stipe and provide shelter for many types of fish.

The same way that land plants use the sun's energy in their leaves to make food, kelp uses the sun's energy to make food in its blades. Most types of kelp have little pods filled with gas, called bladders, on the stipe near the blades. The bladders help the kelp blades float to the surface to absorb sunlight.

One way kelp differs from land plants is that it doesn't have roots. Instead, the base of the plant is a giant, tangled cluster of "fingers" called the holdfast. Acting as an anchor, it grips onto rocks on the sea floor to keep the kelp in place. An animal called a sea urchin will often eat through the holdfast, releasing it from its location.

Many animals such as sea otters, sea lions, seals, and gray whales use large kelp forests for protection, hiding from predators like sharks and killer whales. They also eat the fish living there. Sea otters eat the sea urchins that can damage or kill the kelp as well. Birds feed on the fish, shrimp, jellyfish, and snails that live in and on the kelp. There is so much life in this ecosystem!

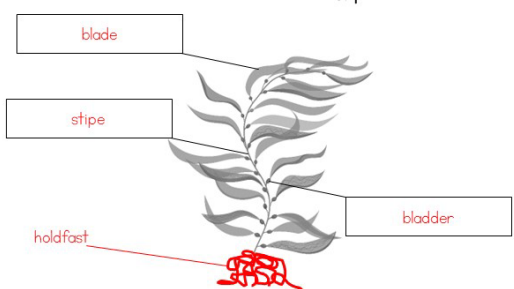


40 © jivey

Answer these questions about Underwater Forests. R5

Use the information from the passage to label the illustration of kelp:

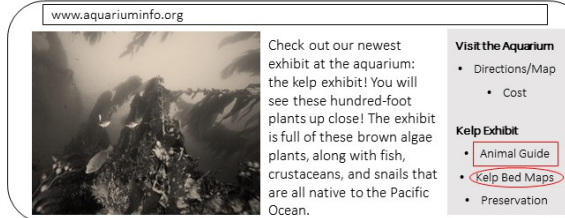
bladder blade stipe



holdfast

The illustration did not include the **holdfast**. Using the description from the passage, draw the holdfast on the illustration above and label it.

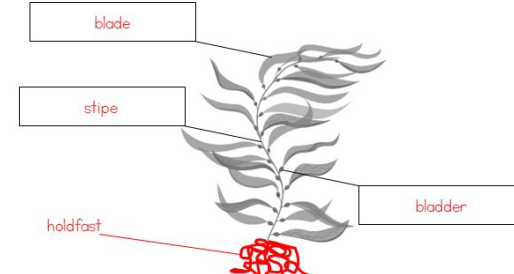
In the website image below, draw a rectangle around the sidebar link that would help you find more information about the creatures that live in kelp. Circle the sidebar link that would help you see where giant kelp lives.



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Answer these questions about Underwater Forests. R5

Use the information from the passage to label the illustration of kelp:



holdfast

The illustration did not include the **holdfast**. Using the description from the passage, draw the holdfast on the illustration above and label it.

How are the ideas in this passage **mostly** organized?

- in chronological order to tell the sequence of kelp's growth
- through compare and contrast of land and underwater plants
- as a problem/solution of how kelp protects animals
- through cause and effect of animals endangering kelp

What effect can a sea urchin have on kelp?

- urchins eat the holdfast
- sea otters eat urchins
- urchins damage and kill kelp
- urchins live in the holdfast

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4 LEVELS
OF EVERY
PASSAGE

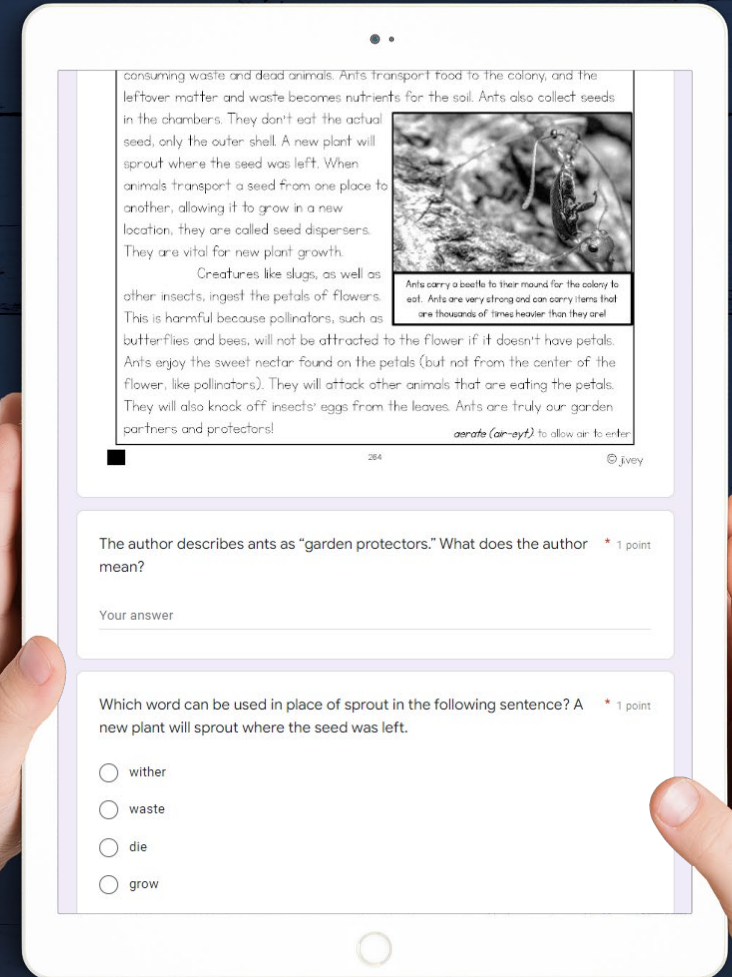
3 LEVELS
OF

QUESTIONS ARE ADJUSTED WHEN GRADE LEVEL
EXPECTATIONS ARE DIFFERENT FOR THE STANDARDS

QUESTIONS

WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE

- ✓ pre-assessments
- ✓ formative assessments
- ✓ whole group mini-lessons
- ✓ independent practice
- ✓ homework
- ✓ small group remediation
- ✓ re-assessing
- ✓ progress monitoring
- ✓ standards-based grading
- ✓ assign digital Google Forms



MIX & MATCH IDEAS

ASSESS GRADE LEVEL
SKILLS WITH A
LOWER-LEVEL TEXT
TO ASSESS MASTERY
OF STANDARDS
RATHER THAN ABILITY
TO READ WITH YOUR
STRUGGLING READERS

2nd grade level text

ONE PASSAGE WITH ALL STANDARDS

3rd grade level questions

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81

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16

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Underwater Forests

Name: _____ Date: _____

When you think of forests, you probably think of those on land, like pine forests or rainforests. But did you know there are underwater forests, too? These forests are filled with hundreds of living things. Plants called algae live in these forests. Sometimes this algae is called seaweed.

One type of seaweed is a brown algae. It is called giant kelp. It is the tallest of all the underwater plants. Kelp is a fast-growing plant that lives in cool, shallow ocean water. It can grow over one foot longer each day. It can grow as long as 100 feet! A small area of kelp is called a bed. The large areas are called kelp forests. These underwater forests stretch for miles along the west coast of North America.

Giant kelp has a stem called a stipe. A stipe is like a thick, flexible piece of rope. This helps the kelp bend and wave as the water moves. Leaf-like blades grow from the stipe. These blades give a home to many types of fish.

Land plants use the sun's energy in their leaves to make food. Kelp also uses the sun's energy to make food in its blades. Most types of kelp have little pods. The pods are filled with air. They are on the stipe near the blades. These pods are called bladders.

The bladders help the kelp blades float to get sunlight.

One way kelp differs from land plants is that it doesn't have roots. Instead, the base of the plant is a giant, tangled cluster of "fingers" called the holdfast. The holdfast acts as an anchor. It grips onto rocks on the sea floor to keep the kelp in place. An animal called a sea urchin will often eat through the holdfast. That loosens it from its location.

Many animals use large kelp forests to stay safe from predators. Sea otters, sea lions, seals, and gray whales hide in kelp from sharks and killer whales. They also eat the fish living there. Sea otters eat the sea urchins that can damage or kill the kelp as well. Birds feed on the fish, shrimp, jellyfish, and snails that live in and on the kelp. There is so much life in this ecosystem!

Underwater Forests

Which of the following sentences would probably most match the point of view of the author of the passage?

a. Kelp is similar to land plants.
b. Kelp forests lead predators to fish.
c. Sea urchins are helpful.
d. Kelp is not necessary.

Write at least one detail from the passage that sea urchins are helpful.

Giant kelp forests off the coast of California were protected by the 2012 Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The illustration did not include the holdfast.

In the sidebar, help you find more information about the holdfast.

www.aquariuminfo.org

bladder blade stipe

Answer these questions about Underwater Forests.

What is a stipe?

a. blade b. rope
c. stem d. plant

The author describes a stipe, "like a thick, flexible piece of rope." How does this help the reader?

Which word can be used in place of stretch in the following sentence?

These underwater forests stretch for miles along the west coast of North America.

a. bounce b. exercise
c. give d. spread

Why did the author write "fingers" (in quotation marks) in the following sentence?

The base of the plant is a giant, tangled cluster of "fingers" called the holdfast.

a. someone is speaking
b. they aren't actually fingers, but it's a way to describe the holdfast
c. it's the title of a chapter in a book
d. the author couldn't think of another word

Write your own sentence to explain a kelp's holdfast.

MIX & MATCH IDEAS

PUSH YOUR
ADVANCED
READERS WHILE
STILL ASSESSING
GRADE LEVEL
SKILLS WITH A
HIGHER-LEVEL
TEXT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Underwater Forests

When you think of forests, you probably think of those on land, like pine forests or rainforests. But did you know there are underwater forests, too? These forests are filled with hundreds of living organisms, including plants called algae. Sometimes this algae is called seaweed.


One type of seaweed is a brown algae called giant kelp: the tallest of all the underwater plants. Kelp is a rapid-growing plant that lives in cool, shallow ocean water. It can grow over one foot longer each day, measuring as long as 100 feet full-grown! A small region of kelp is called a bed, while the large expanses are called kelp forests. These underwater forests stretch for miles along the west coast of North America.

Giant kelp has a stem called a stipe. A stipe is like a thick, flexible piece of rope which helps the kelp bend and sway as the water moves. Leaf-like blades grow from the stipe and provide shelter for many types of fish.

The same way that land plants use the sun's energy in their leaves to make food, kelp uses the sun's energy to make food in its blades. Most types of kelp have little pods filled with gas, called bladders, on the stipe near the blades. The bladders help the kelp blades float to the surface to absorb sunlight.

Contrasting land plants, kelp doesn't have roots. Instead, the base of the plant is a giant, tangled cluster of "fingers" called the holdfast. Acting as an anchor, it grasps onto rocks on the sea floor to keep the kelp in place. An organism called a sea urchin will often eat through the holdfast, releasing it from its location.

Many mammals such as sea otters, sea lions, seals, and gray whales use the vast kelp forests for protection, hiding from predators like sharks and killer whales. They consume the fish living there, and the sea otters eat the sea urchins that can damage or kill the kelp. Birds feed on the fish, shrimp, jellyfish, and snails that live in and on the kelp. There is so much life in this ecosystem!



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5th grade level text

Name: _____ Date: _____

Underwater Forests

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Many animals such as sea otters, sea lions, seals, and gray whales use large kelp forests for protection, hiding from predators like sharks and killer whales. They also eat the fish living there. Sea otters eat the sea urchins that can damage or kill the kelp as well. Birds feed on the fish, shrimp, jellyfish, and snails that live in and on the kelp. There is so much life in this ecosystem!



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Answer these questions about Underwater Forests. R6

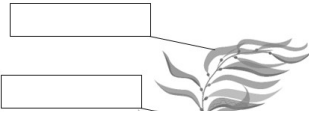
Which of the following sentences would probably **most** match the point of view of the author of the passage?

a. Kelp is similar to trees on land.
b. Kelp forests:
c. Sea urchins
d. Kelp is not really a plant.

Write at least one sentence about a view that sea urchins have of kelp forests.

Answer these questions about Underwater Forests. R5

Use the information from the passage to label the illustration of kelp:



Write at least one sentence about a view that sea urchins have of kelp forests.

Answer these questions about Underwater Forests. R4

What is a **stipe**?

a. blade
b. rope
c. stem
d. plant

The illustration shows a kelp plant. The author describes a stipe, "like a thick, flexible piece of rope." How does this help the reader?

How are the ideas in the passage related?

a. in chronological order
b. through cause and effect
c. as a problem and solution
d. through comparison and contrast

What can cause a kelp forest to be destroyed?

a. urchins eat through the holdfast.
c. gray whales eat through the holdfast.

Which of these words is the closest to the meaning of the word **stretch**?

These underwater forests stretch for miles along the west coast of North America.

a. bounce
b. exercise
c. give
d. spread

Why did the author write "fingers" (in quotation marks) in the following sentence?

The base of the plant is a giant, tangled cluster of "fingers" called the holdfast.

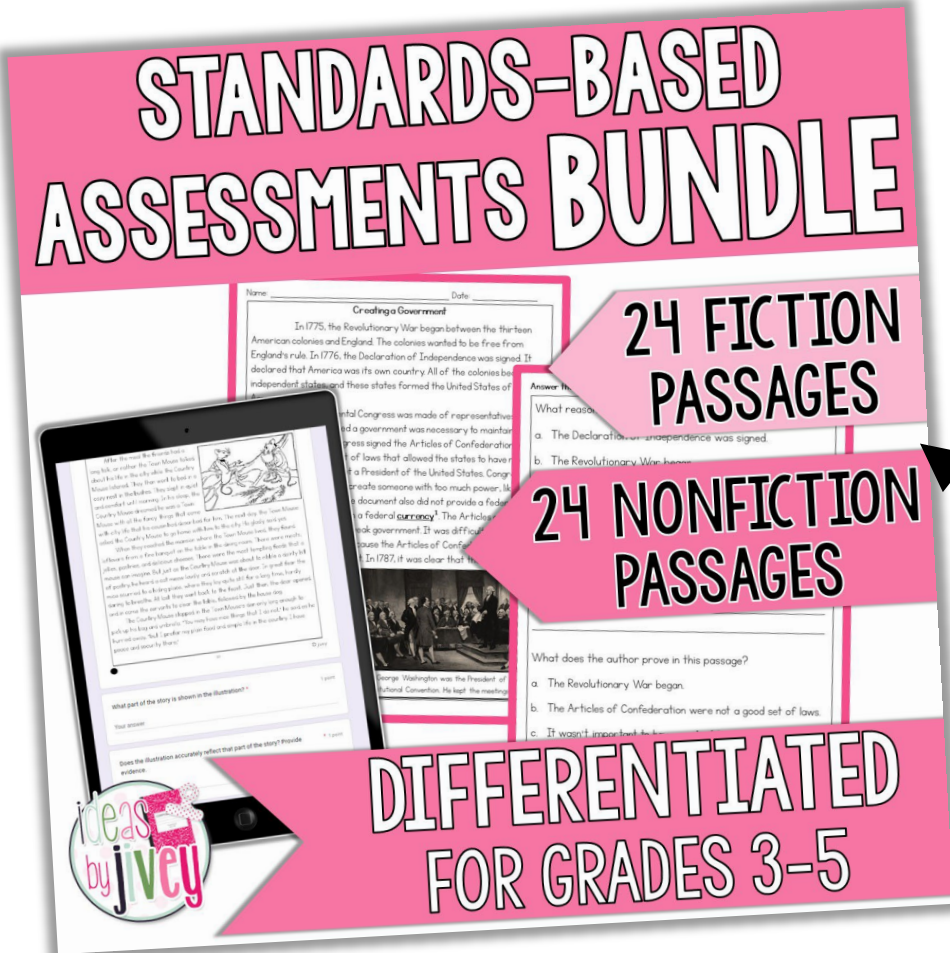
a. someone is speaking
b. they aren't actually fingers, but it's a way to describe the holdfast
c. it's the title of a chapter in a book
d. the author couldn't think of another word

Write at least one sentence about a view that sea urchins have of kelp forests.

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4th grade level questions

BUY THE BUNDLE & SAVE!



Your year will be set with assessments for
EVERY reading standard in fiction and nonfiction!

I love how **easy** it was to
differentiate for all students.
Thank you very much for this
resource. I could see how much
time and effort was put into this.
You saved me hours of planning!

*check
it out!*

Miss Nguyen, 3rd Grade Teacher

FABULOUS FEEDBACK

Used this resource with my **targeted intervention groups** to prepare for state testing! This was PERFECT. The passages were **engaging** and truly **prepared them** for what was to come on the actual BIG test. Thank you for taking the time to create amazing resources like this!

Amanda N., 3rd Grade Teacher

With a **multi-level classroom**, I love how easy it is to **differentiate** for my students with a **wide range of abilities**.
Thank you!

Emmalee P., 3rd / 4th / 5th Grade Teacher

I loved this resource because it provided me with **useful data** and the students were **fully engaged**. There were multiple levels making **differentiation** a breeze.

Maureen L., 4th Grade Teacher