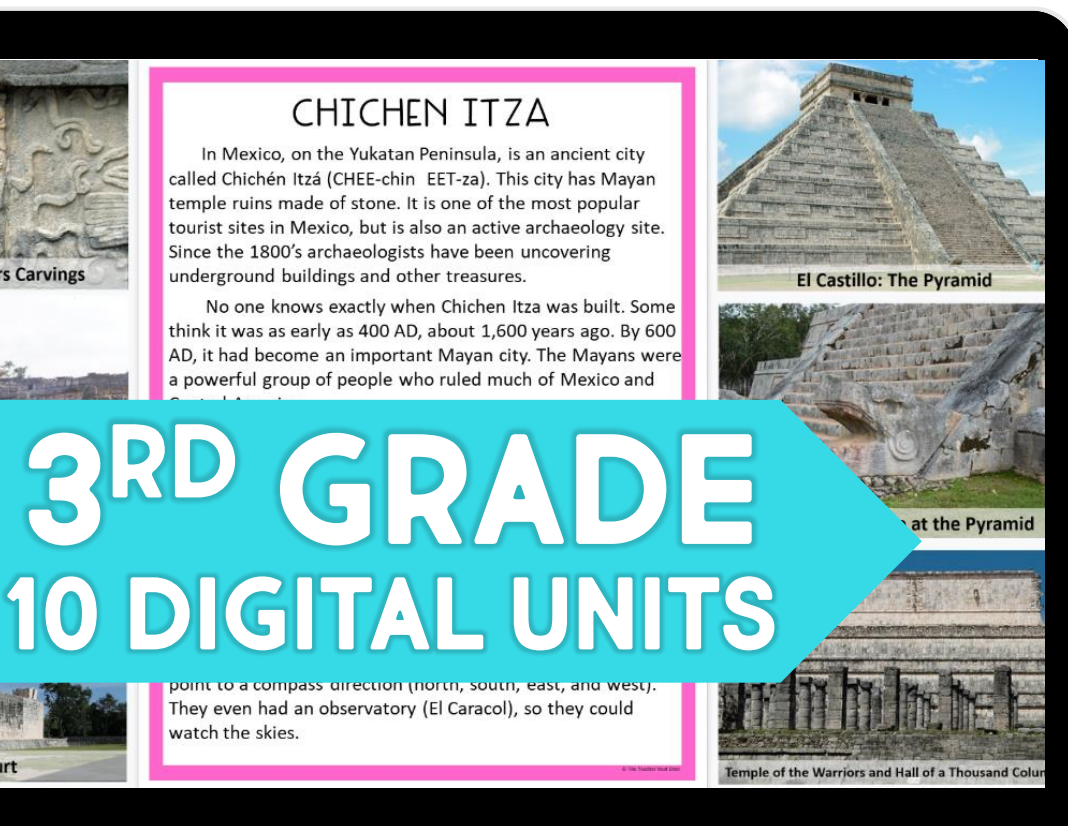


KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS



CHICHEN ITZA

In Mexico, on the Yukatan Peninsula, is an ancient city called Chichén Itzá (CHEE-chin EET-za). This city has Mayan temple ruins made of stone. It is one of the most popular tourist sites in Mexico, but is also an active archaeology site. Since the 1800's archaeologists have been uncovering underground buildings and other treasures.

No one knows exactly when Chichen Itza was built. Some think it was as early as 400 AD, about 1,600 years ago. By 600 AD, it had become an important Mayan city. The Mayans were a powerful group of people who ruled much of Mexico and Central America.

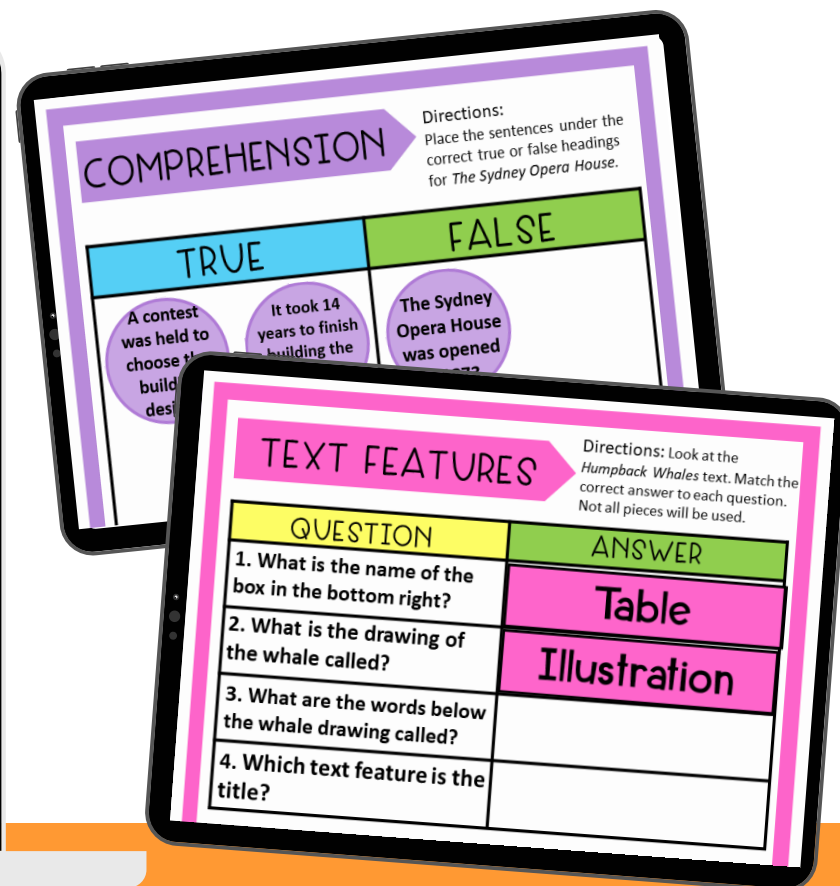
point to a compass direction (north, south, east, and west). They even had an observatory (El Caracol), so they could watch the skies.

El Castillo: The Pyramid

Temple of the Warriors and Hall of a Thousand Columns

3RD GRADE

10 DIGITAL UNITS



COMPREHENSION

Directions: Place the sentences under the correct true or false headings for *The Sydney Opera House*.

TRUE	FALSE
A contest was held to choose the building design.	It took 14 years to finish building the house.
	The Sydney Opera House was opened in 1973.

TEXT FEATURES

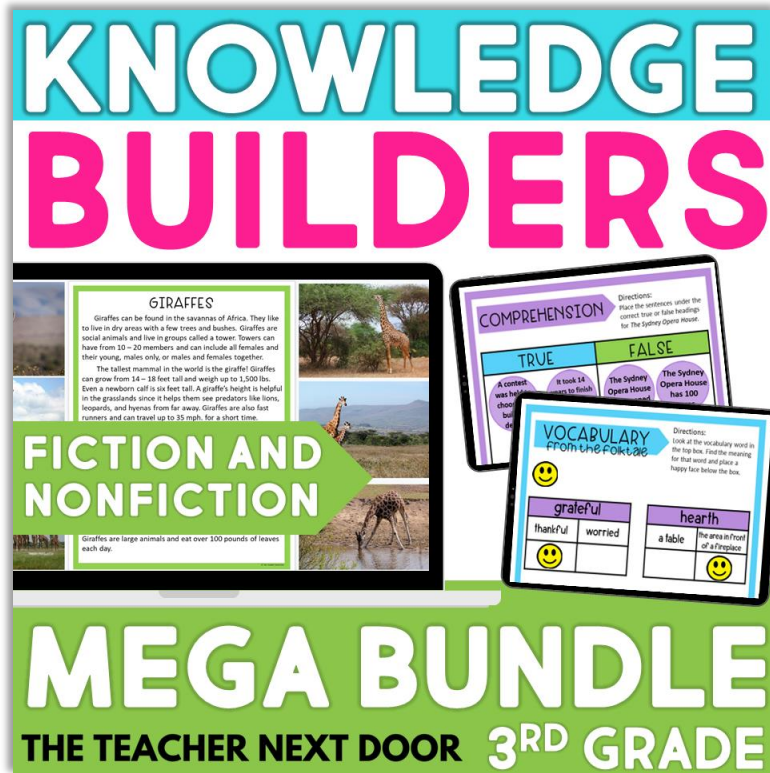
Directions: Look at the *Humpback Whales* text. Match the correct answer to each question. Not all pieces will be used.

QUESTION	ANSWER
1. What is the name of the box in the bottom right?	Table
2. What is the drawing of the whale called?	Illustration
3. What are the words below the whale drawing called?	
4. Which text feature is the title?	

NONFICTION BUNDLE

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WHAT'S INCLUDED?

10

**KNOWLEDGE
BUILDER UNITS**

**FOR
CENTERS OR
INDEPENDENT
WORK**

COVERS KEY SKILLS

NONFICTION

- **Questions from the Text**
- **Main Idea**
- **Cause and Effect**
- **Context Clues**
- **Text Features**
- **Point of View**
- **Illustrations and Text**
- **Text Evidence**
- **Compare and Contrast**
- **Reading Comprehension Using Nonfiction**

DIGITAL FORMAT

DRAG AND DROP – INTERACTIVE
NO-PREP, EASY TO ASSIGN

JUST CLICK AND SEND! 

MORE QUESTIONS


GIRAFFES AND OKAPIS

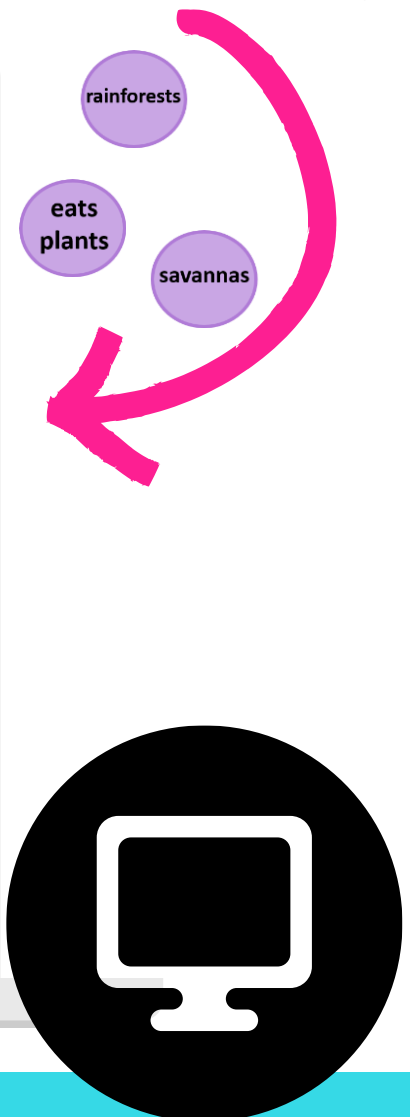
In the animal kingdom, giraffes are related to hippo, moose, deer, sheep, pigs, buffalo, llamas, and antelopes. Their closest relative though is the okapi (oh COP ee).

Both okapi and giraffe can be found in Africa. Giraffes live in savannas where there are few trees, while okapi live in the rainforest. Giraffes like to live in groups but okapis live alone. Both animals have long tongues that can pull leaves off of trees to help them eat. They both like to eat plants but okapis also eat some dirt to get the minerals and salt they need.

Okapis and giraffes look very different. Giraffes have a spotted fur but okapis have dark brown bodies with legs that are striped like zebras. Giraffes have very long necks but okapi don't. Female and male giraffes have ossicones, but only male okapis have them.

GIRAFFE	BOTH	OKAPI
<div>spotted fur</div> <div>lives in groups</div>	<div>long tongue</div> <div>lives in Africa</div>	<div>lives alone</div> <div>striped legs</div>









PASSAGES

READING SKILL FOCUSED

HIGH-INTEREST STORIES

THAT KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED!



HUMPBACK WHALES

Humpback whales may be found in all oceans of the world. Most of them stay in cooler waters for the summer feeding season. In the winter, they **migrate** to warmer waters near the **equator**. Humpback whales travel alone or live in small groups of two or three whales, called **pods**.


These large mammals are called *baleen whales*. Other baleen whales include the blue whale, the fin whale, the gray whale, and the bowhead whale. Baleen whales do not have teeth but have hundreds of baleen plates. The plates are about two and a half feet long and are made of the same material as your nails or hair. To eat, a baleen whale takes in a large mouthful of sea water. When the whale pushes the water out, the food is trapped behind the baleen plates.

Humpback whales eat krill, plankton, anchovies, sardines, and other small fish. They catch food in several ways. One way is to swim through a school of fish with their mouths open. Another way is to use their **blowholes** to make a ring of bubbles. When fish are surrounded by the bubble "net", the whales swim through and eat the fish.

Humpbacks can grow to 60 feet long and weigh 40 tons. The females are larger than the males. Humpbacks are gray or black on their upper sides and are lighter underneath. They have bumps on their head and their bellies have lines. Humpbacks have unique colors and patterns on the undersides of their **tail flukes**. They also have large flippers.


For more humpback whale information:
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/sea-life/humpback-song/>

Humpback Whales	
Length	60 feet
Weight	40 tons
Flipper Length	16 feet
Tail Width	18 feet



Humpback whales have large flippers.

© The Teacher Next Door



Feeding (Baleen)

Plates

USE FOR
CENTERS OR
INDEPENDENT
WORK



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VOCABULARY

TARGET WORDS IN CONTEXT FROM THE PASSAGE WITH INTERACTIVE PRACTICE!

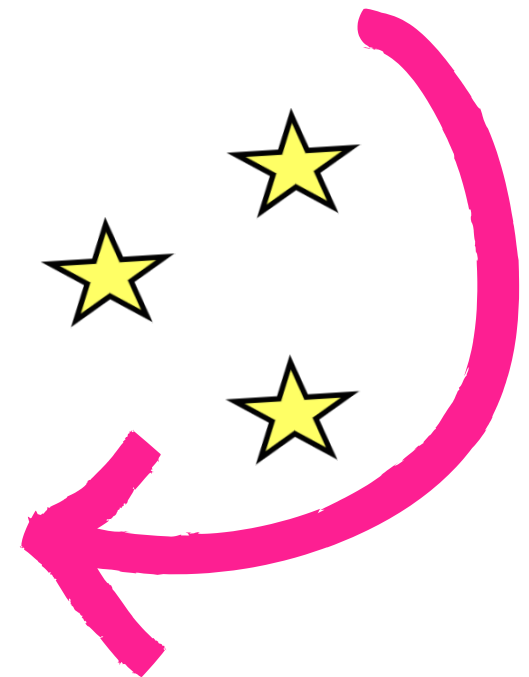
VOCABULARY from the text

Directions: Look at the vocabulary word in the top box. Find the word that means the same thing and put a star below that word's box.

carnivores	
eat plants	eat meat
	★

blubber	
fat	muscle
★	

migrate	
stay in the	move to a



COMPREHENSION

STUDENTS PRACTICE
DIGGING INTO THE TEXT
TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING!

COMPREHENSION

Directions:
Place the sentences under the correct true or false headings for *The Sydney Opera House*.

TRUE	FALSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A contest was held to choose the building design.It took 14 years to finish building the Opera House.Over ten million people visit the Sydney Opera House each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Sydney Opera House was opened in 1873.The building cost less than planned.

The Sydney Opera House has 100 rooms.

John Utzon won the design contest.

The Sydney Opera House is in England.



SKILLS FOCUSED

REINFORCE

NONFICTION CONCEPTS

USING A VARIETY OF APPROACHES!



MORE TEXT EVIDENCE about Pizza

Directions: Read each sentence about pizza. Find the letter of the sentence that answers each question.

A. Over 5 billion pizzas are sold each year around the world.
B. Coconut or shrimp are favorite toppings in Costa Rica.
C. In Brazil, some people like green peas on their pizzas.
D. You can order fried egg on your pizza in France.
E. In Japan, many people love a pizza with mayonnaise, bacon, corn, potatoes, and onion.

1. Which sentence tells which country likes fried eggs on pizza?

2. Which sentence tells the number of pizzas sold each year?

3. Which sentence tells about pizza in Japan?

4. Which sentence tells who likes green peas on pizza?

A. In 1889, King Umberto and Queen Margherita visited Naples.
B. The Queen asked a pizza maker to make 3 special pizzas.
C. The Queen didn't like the first two pizzas he made, with garlic on one and anchovies (fish) on the other.
D. She loved the third pizza that had tomato sauce, cheese, and basil.
E. The pizza maker named the pizza the margherita.

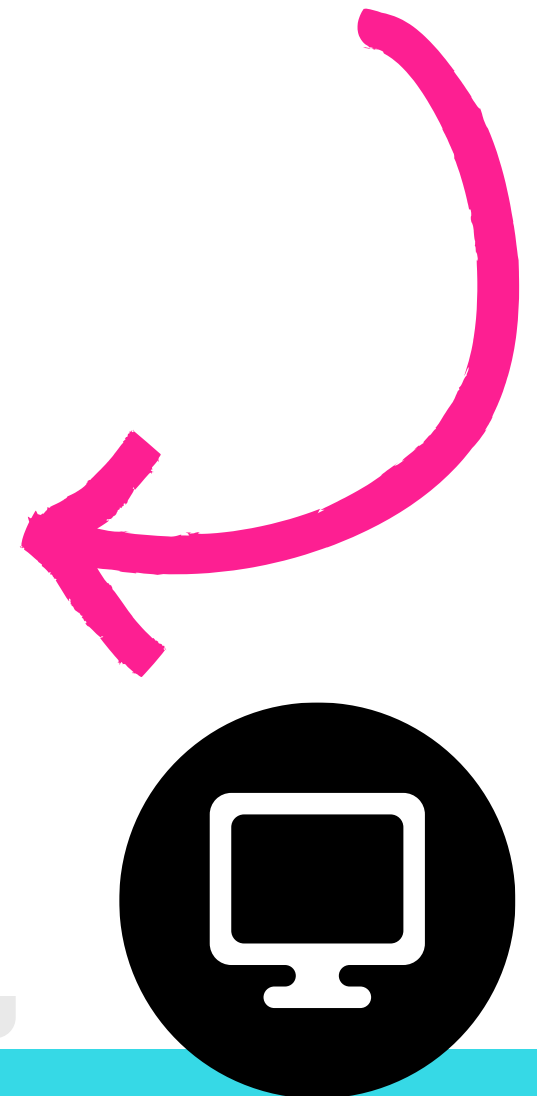
5. How many pizzas did the Queen ask him to make?

6. Which pizza did the queen like?

7. Which year did the King and Queen visit Naples?

8. Which pizzas didn't the queen like?

Margherita Pizza



ASK THE EXPERTS

**"THESE PASSAGES ARE
ENGAGING AND HELP
BUILD BACKGROUND AND
VOCABULARY!"**

– AMANDA, 3RD GRADE TEACHER

**"ENGAGING, EASY TO USE,
AND SUCH A GREAT
TOOL!"**

– ABIGAIL, 3RD GRADE TEACHER

**"THIS WAS A HUGE HELP TO
SUPPLEMENT MY LESSONS. IT
SAVED ME SO MUCH TIME!"**

– CARLY, 3RD GRADE TEACHER

THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS FAQ

Which classrooms would benefit from a KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS NONFICTION BUNDLE like this?

This Knowledge Builders Nonfiction Bundle is for you **if your reading curriculum is lacking** when it comes to focused reading skills practice or your students could benefit from more content knowledge. If you'd like to **stop endlessly searching for high-interest reading activities** that align with this reading standard and are looking for **easy-to-use** reading activities, this resource is for you.

What age is best suited for this Knowledge Builder?

This digital reading unit is **aligned to 3rd grade reading standards**. It can also be used with **older students in need of extra practice** and support or for **enrichment for younger students**. Teachers, homeschool educators, and tutors have used the materials successfully.

How can this resource be used in my classroom?

This resource is **extremely versatile**. Many teachers will use the knowledge builder as part of their weekly literacy stations. You can also use the digital unit for independent work, partner practice, test prep, and for whole-class lessons. Our **best recommendation is to use them for independent or partner work while you meet with small groups to differentiate**.

WHO IS TTND?

At **The Teacher Next Door**, we know that you strive to be an effective reading teacher while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. In order to do that, you need resources that are impactful yet simple. The problem is that most reading resources and curriculums out there are far from simple. The pages upon pages of daily lesson plans are just plain overwhelming. We believe teachers should be living their lives outside the classroom and not spending hours lesson planning and searching for resources.

Now, more than ever, teachers need space to be themselves, which is why we create and support teachers with time-saving tips and standards-aligned resources.

We can't wait to help you get started.

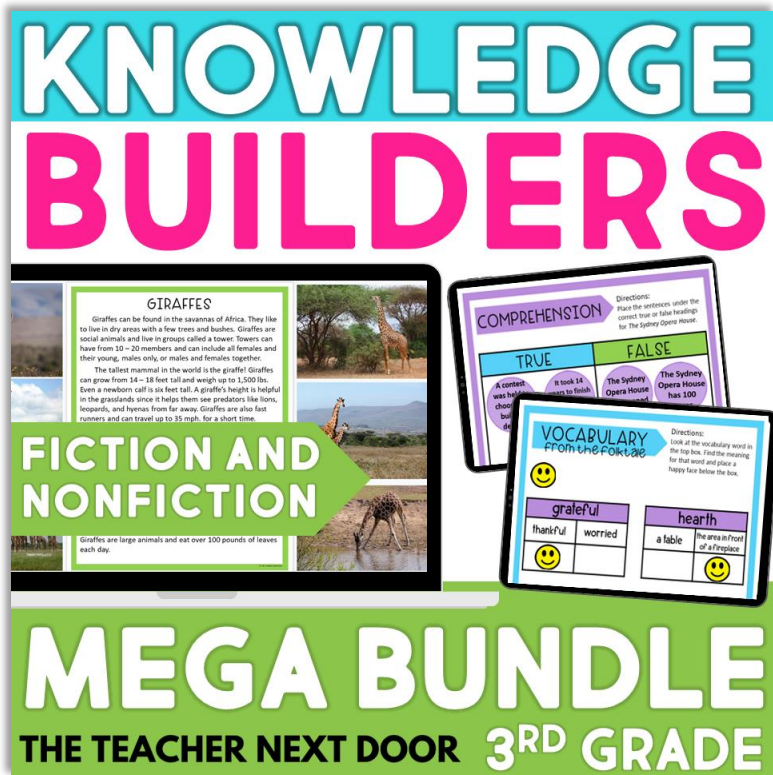
A NOTE ABOUT OUR CEO AND FOUNDER: Jenn Larson is the creator and founder of The Teacher Next Door. With over 20 years of experience in the classroom and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Jenn specializes in creating resources for upper elementary students. Her goal is to support teachers by providing ready-to-use resources that target standards and help students grow in amazing ways.



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