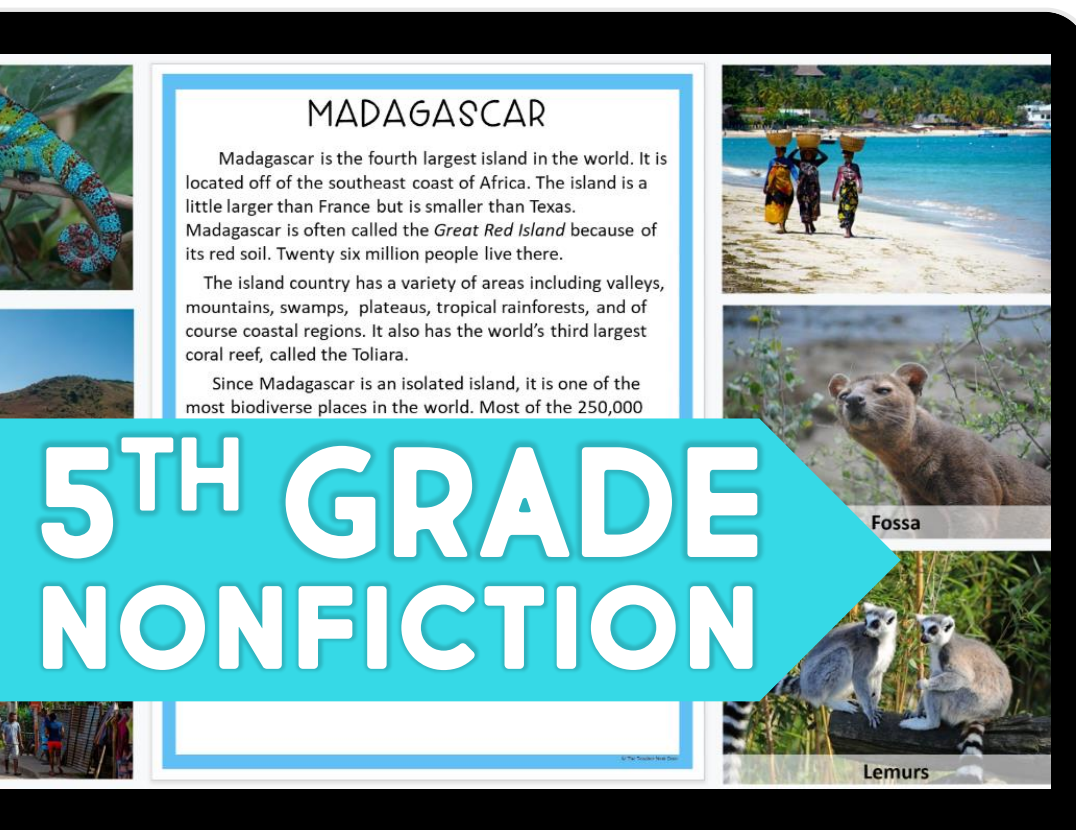


KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS



MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. It is located off of the southeast coast of Africa. The island is a little larger than France but is smaller than Texas. Madagascar is often called the *Great Red Island* because of its red soil. Twenty six million people live there.

The island country has a variety of areas including valleys, mountains, swamps, plateaus, tropical rainforests, and of course coastal regions. It also has the world's third largest coral reef, called the Toliara.

Since Madagascar is an isolated island, it is one of the most biodiverse places in the world. Most of the 250,000

5TH GRADE NONFICTION

Fossa

Lemurs

INFORMATIONAL TEXT STRUCTURES

using text topics

Directions: Which text structure would best be used for each Madagascar passage topic? Place the topic under the matching text structure.

DESCRIPTION	ORDER AND SEQUENCE	COMPARE AND CONTRAST
	To describe the life of Queen Rasoherina...	To examine how sapphires and rubies are the same and how they are different...

VOCABULARY

from the text

Directions: Match the meaning to its related vocabulary word.

VOCABULARY WORD	MEANING
unique	unlike anything else
biodiverse	
aroma	
isolated	all by itself
plateaus	
accomplished	

INFORMATIONAL TEXT STRUCTURES

THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

DIGITAL FORMAT

DRAG AND DROP – INTERACTIVE

NO-PREP, EASY TO ASSIGN

JUST CLICK AND SEND! ✨

CYCLONES

Madagascar is naturally prone to cyclones and tropical storms. In fact, this large island is hit by an average of three to four cyclones each year. Cyclones are called typhoons or hurricanes in other places and are storms that bring heavy rains and strong winds.

Cyclones are destructive in a number of ways. People who live on the coast are the first to feel the storm's impact since their homes are mainly made of flimsy materials like wood, metal sheets, woven mats, or mud. Cyclones can cause families to be homeless and can threaten people's lives. Not only are cyclones dangerous for Madagascar's people, but they can also destroy agriculture, which is one of Madagascar's main sources of income.

LEMURS AND FOSSAS

Madagascar is the home to thousands of different animals, including lemurs and fossas. A lemur is a primate, like a monkey or an ape. There are over 100 different species of lemur in Madagascar. All of these mammals are social and live in groups of lemurs called troops. Lemurs live in trees and eat mainly fruit, leaves, and insects. Some are active during the day, while others are nocturnal.

The fossa is also a mammal but is related to the mongoose. They live alone and are active off and on during the day and the night. Fossas are carnivorous and are at the top of the food chain in Madagascar. They spend most of their time in trees but may also hunt on the ground. A fossa's main prey is the lemur, but it also eats small mammals like mice as well as fish and birds.

ECOTOURISM

Madagascar is a beautiful island full of amazing animals and breathtaking ocean



Lemur



Lemur





THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

FIVE PASSAGES

READING SKILL FOCUSED

HIGH-INTEREST STORIES

THAT KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED!



Page 2


FROM ORCHID TO VANILLA BEAN

Madagascar produces most (80%) of the world's natural vanilla. The vanilla bean actually comes from an orchid plant which grows on a vine. Once the orchid is three years old, it is able to bear fruit. When the plant flowers, it must be pollinated to grow vanilla beans. In nature, this would be accomplished by a bee or a hummingbird. On vanilla bean farms in Madagascar however, nothing is left up to chance. Workers pollinate every single orchid by hand to help ensure that each one produces beans.

Six to nine months after the flower has been pollinated, the vanilla beans are picked by hand and sorted by length. Larger beans are considered to be tastier, so they are more expensive. When the beans are first picked, they have no smell or taste and must be cured to concentrate the flavoring.

Next, they're placed in boiling water for a short period of time. This makes the beans a dark brown color. Then they're dried on bamboo tables in the sun for about ten weeks. After the drying process the beans are sorted again for size and quality. Sorted beans are stored for one to two months until their flavor and aroma reaches its peak.

Madagascar produces about 2,200 tons of vanilla beans each year which is wrapped in bundles and sold in Europe and the United States.

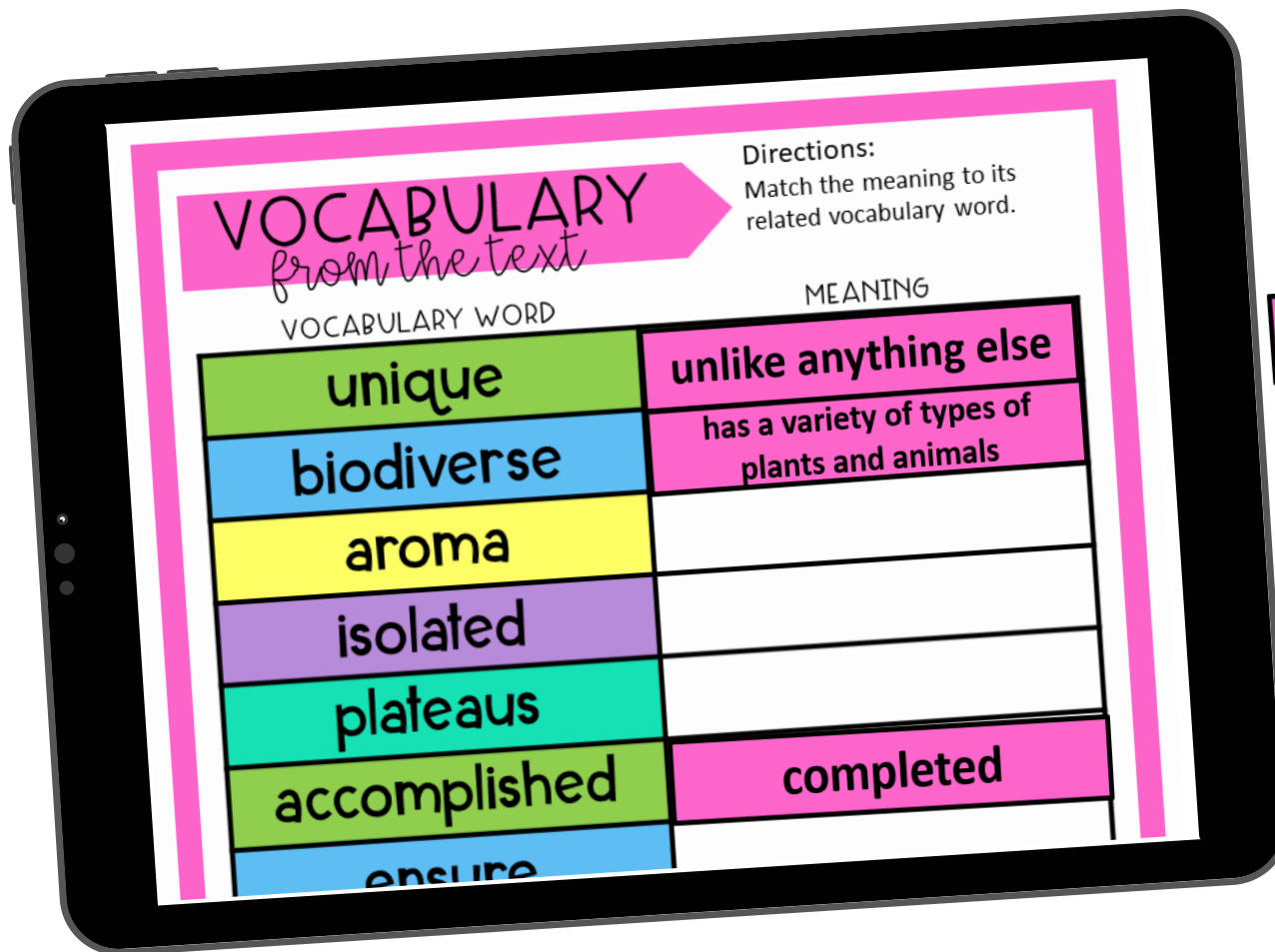


USE FOR
CENTERS OR
INDEPENDENT
WORK



VOCABULARY

TARGET WORDS IN CONTEXT
FROM THE PASSAGE
WITH INTERACTIVE PRACTICE!



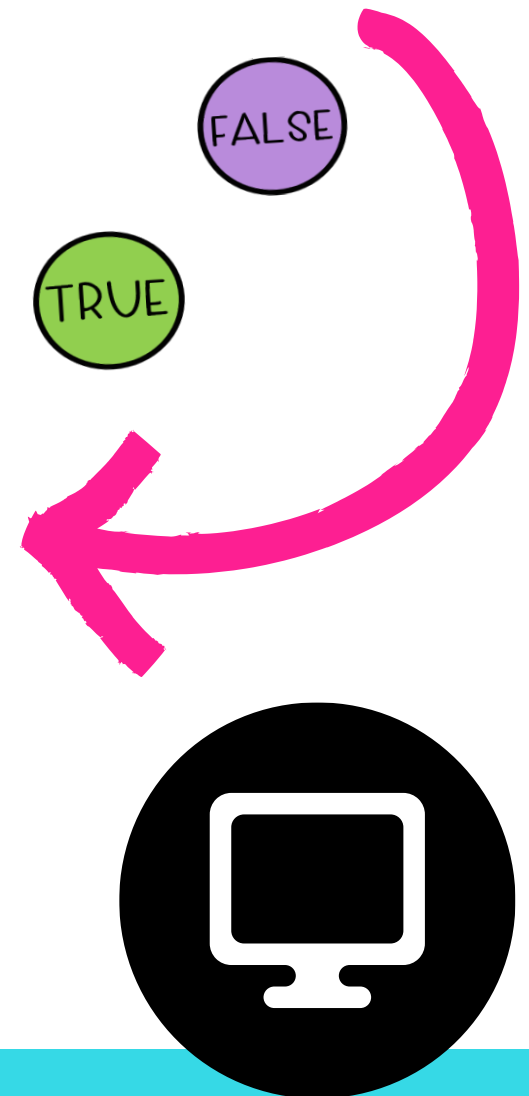
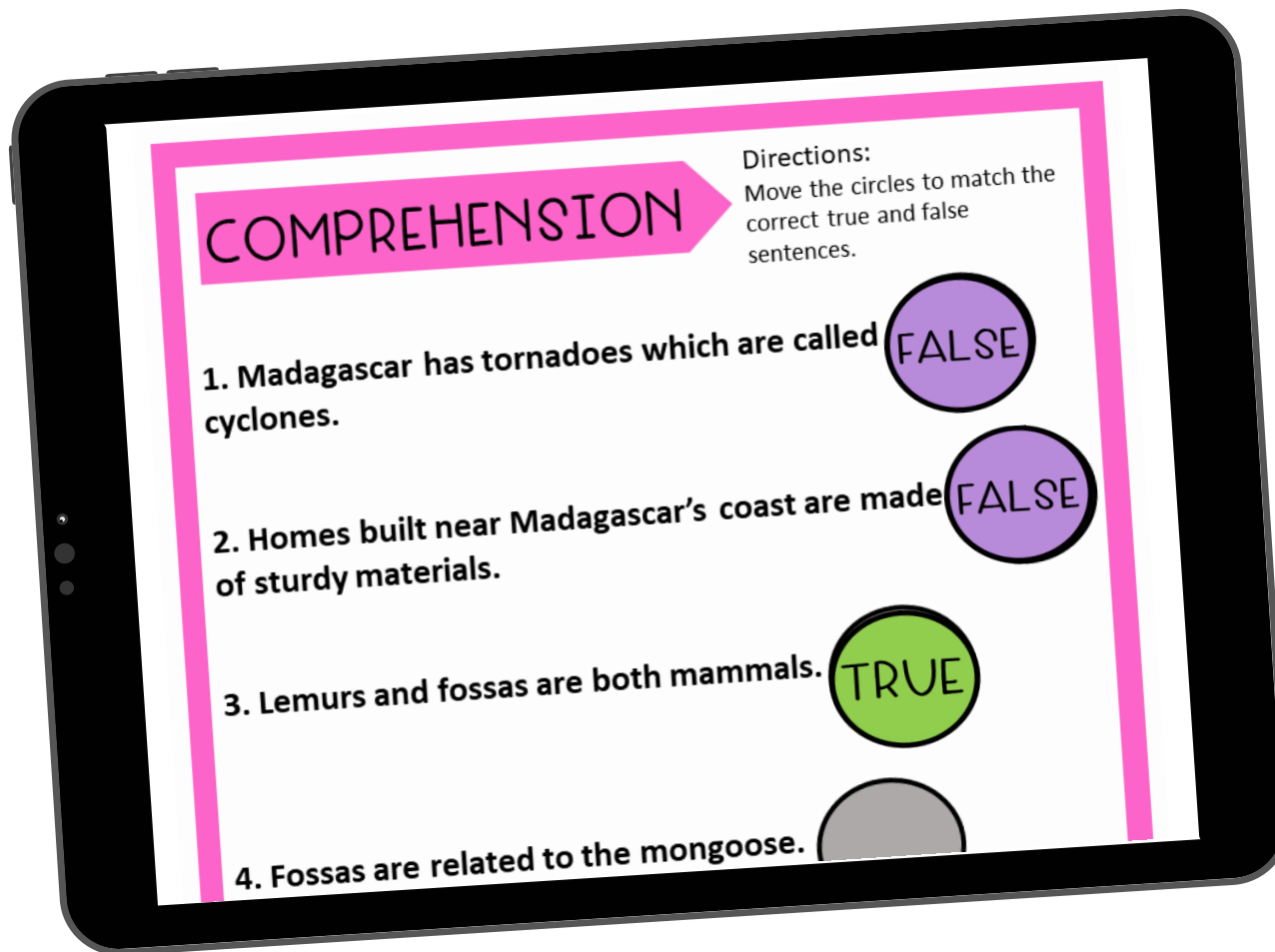
all by itself

flat areas of high ground



COMPREHENSION

**STUDENTS PRACTICE
DIGGING INTO THE TEXT
TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING!**



SKILLS FOCUSED

REINFORCE THE INFORMATIONAL
TEXT STRUCTURES CONCEPTS
USING A VARIETY OF APPROACHES!

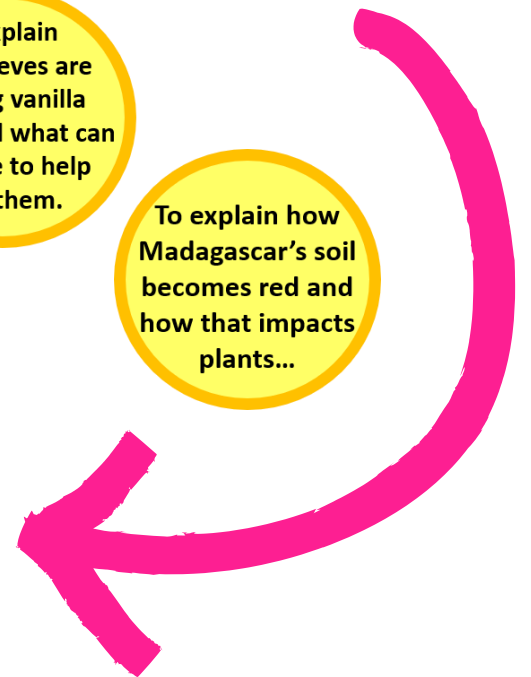
INFORMATIONAL TEXT STRUCTURES *using text topics*

Directions:
Which text structure would best be
used for each Madagascar passage
topic? Place the topic under the
matching text structure.

DESCRIPTION	ORDER AND SEQUENCE	COMPARE AND CONTRAST
To tell what elephant birds look like and how they live in the wild...	To describe the life of Queen Rasoherina...	To examine how sapphires and rubies are the same and how they are different...
CAUSE AND EFFECT	PROBLEM AND SOLUTION	

To explain
how thieves are
stealing vanilla
beans and what can
be done to help
stop them.

To explain how
Madagascar's soil
becomes red and
how that impacts
plants...



ASK THE EXPERTS

"THIS RESOURCE IS NOT ONLY WELL MADE, BUT IT IS BEAUTIFUL!"

– CAITLIN, 5TH GRADE TEACHER

"THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING A RESOURCE THAT COMPLETELY MATCHED THE STANDARD!"

– LOTTIE, 5TH GRADE TEACHER

"PERFECTLY ALIGNED WITH THE STANDARD, AND MY STUDENTS LOVE COMPLETING THEM"

– NICOLE, 5TH GRADE TEACHER

THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS FAQ

Which classrooms would benefit from a Digital Reading Informational Text Structures Unit like this?

This set of Informational Text Structures Knowledge Builders 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 5th 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.

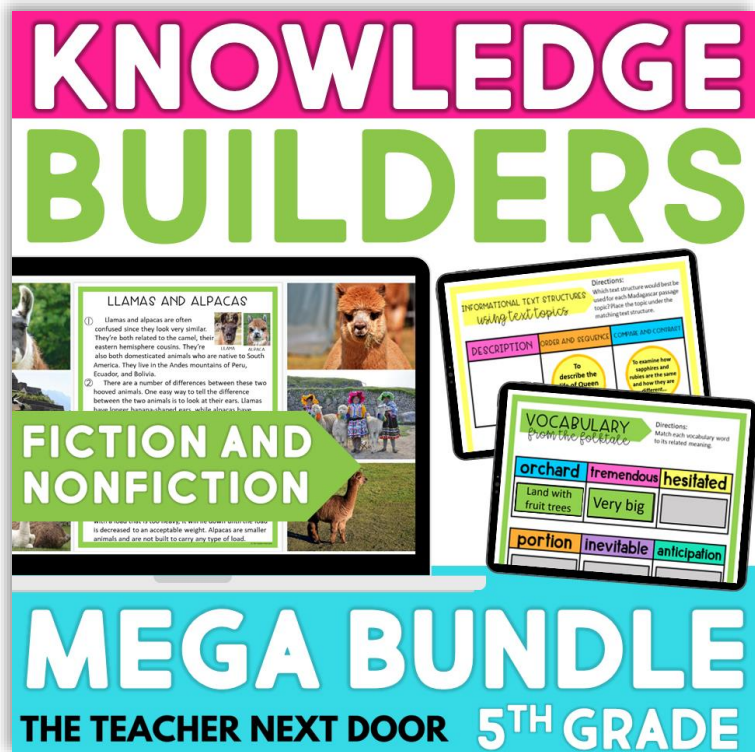
A NOTE ABOUT OUR CEO AND FOUNDER: Jenn Larson is the creator and founder of The Teacher Next Door. With over 20 years of experience in the classroom and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Jenn specializes in creating resources for upper elementary students. Her goal is to support teachers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

REACH OUT AT: contact@the-teacher-next-door.com



**THE TEACHER
NEXT DOOR**

TAKE BACK YOUR TEACHER TIME!



BUY NOW



NO MORE HOURS OF LESSON PLANNING!
YOUR FUTURE TEACHER-SELF WILL
THANK YOU, YEAR AFTER YEAR.

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