

# KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS

**JAPANESE MACAQUE**

The Japanese Macaque (Muh kahk) is an intelligent creature who is also called the snow monkey. This primate lives in three of the four main islands of northern Japan. They spend most of their time in the forests. Snow monkeys have thick fur which helps insulate them to survive the cold winters. When it's cold, some spend time in a hot springs area, where temperatures are warmer.

Snow monkeys are social and live in troops of 10 – 100 members. They have a complicated class system, with many more females in the troops than males. Although there is a dominant male who helps find food and protects the troop

them. The rinsing may add salt to the foods or may remove some of the dirt.

**5TH GRADE  
NONFICTION**

**VOCABULARY**  
*from the passages*

Directions: Look at the vocabulary word in the top box. Place a star by all of the boxes which are definitions for that word.

intelligent	average	smart	bright
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insulate	prevent loss of heat	protect from cold	freeze
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**VOCABULARY**  
*from the two texts*

Directions: Match the meaning to its related vocabulary word.

summit	sacred	decrease
the top of the mountain	holy, dedicated to a religious purpose	
varies	pilgrimage	formed

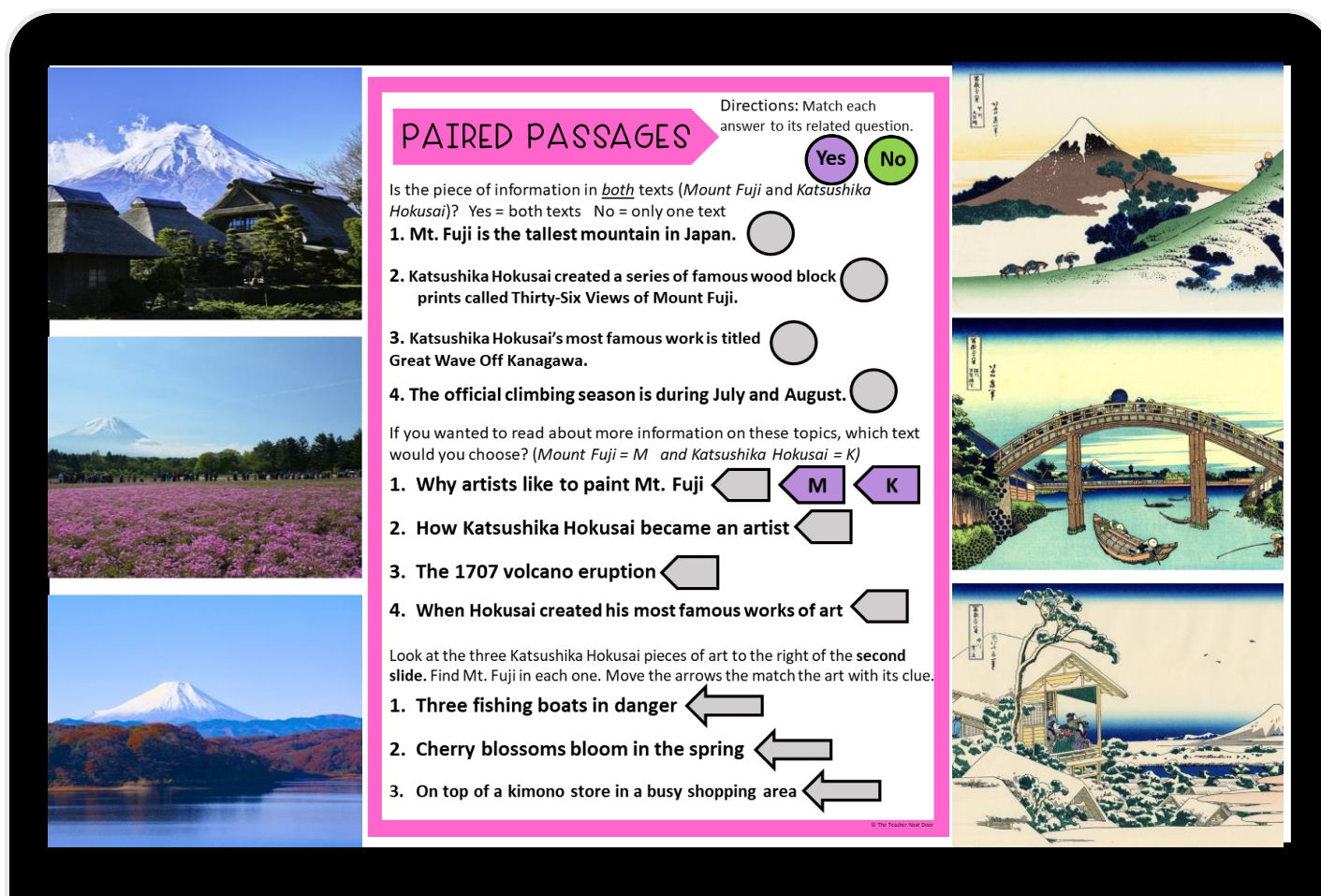
# PAIRED PASSAGES

**THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR**

# DIGITAL FORMAT

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

JUST CLICK AND SEND! 



**PAIRED PASSAGES**

Directions: Match each answer to its related question.

Yes No

Is the piece of information in *both* texts (*Mount Fuji* and *Katsushika Hokusai*)? Yes = both texts No = only one text

- Mt. Fuji is the tallest mountain in Japan. ☐
- Katsushika Hokusai created a series of famous wood block prints called Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji. ☐
- Katsushika Hokusai's most famous work is titled Great Wave Off Kanagawa. ☐
- The official climbing season is during July and August. ☐

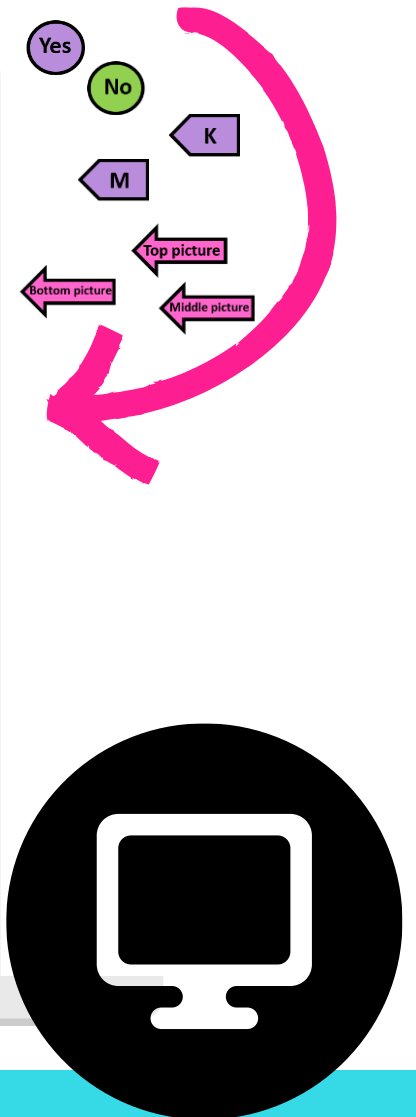
If you wanted to read about more information on these topics, which text would you choose? (*Mount Fuji* = M and *Katsushika Hokusai* = K)

- Why artists like to paint Mt. Fuji  M  K
- How Katsushika Hokusai became an artist
- The 1707 volcano eruption
- When Hokusai created his most famous works of art

Look at the three Katsushika Hokusai pieces of art to the right of the second slide. Find Mt. Fuji in each one. Move the arrows the match the art with its clue.

- Three fishing boats in danger
- Cherry blossoms bloom in the spring
- On top of a kimono store in a busy shopping area

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# 2 SETS OF PAIRED TEXTS

## READING SKILL FOCUSED

## HIGH-INTEREST STORIES

## THAT KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED!

### JAPANESE MACAQUE

The Japanese Macaque (Muh kahk) is an intelligent creature who is also called the snow monkey. This primate lives in three of the four main islands of northern Japan. They spend most of their time in the forests. Snow monkeys have thick fur which helps insulate them to survive the cold winters. When it's cold, some spend time in a hot springs area, where temperatures are warmer.

Snow monkeys are social and live in troops of 10 – 100 members. They have a complicated class system, with many more females in the troops than males. Although there is a dominant male who helps find food and protects the troop, most males leave the troop as they become adults. A snow monkey's rank is determined at birth by the mother's rank. Monkeys may move slightly up or down in status depending upon their behavior. The snow monkey's rank determines the amount of food it receives, its position in the hot springs, and the respect it's given.

The diet of the snow monkeys varies with the season and the foods available. In the summer, they eat fruit, flowers, leaves, seeds, fish, and mushrooms. During the winter, they usually eat roots and buds. One interesting fact is that some troops wash their foods (like sweet potatoes) before they eat them. The rinsing may add salt to the foods or may remove some of the dirt.

### SNOW MONKEYS IN THE HOT SPRINGS

In the 1960's when trees were being cut down in some areas to make room for ski resorts, snow monkeys began to lose their habitats in northern Japan. When the monkeys found food on nearby apple farms, the farmers were upset and wanted to get rid of the monkeys.

A man named Soro Hara built Jigokudani Monkey Park in 1964 to help protect the snow monkeys. This conservation and research area was located in an area that had volcanoes at one time. The volcanic activity formed natural hot springs. Once the monkeys observed humans soaking in the hot springs in the winter time, the monkeys became curious about it and soon, they also started soaking in the warm waters.

Now, when the ground is covered in snow (December through February), the snow monkeys come down from their forest home in the morning to soak in the hot springs before returning home midafternoon. In the hot springs, besides relaxing, the monkeys groom each other to remove insects from the fur and as a bonding time.



USE FOR  
CENTERS OR  
INDEPENDENT  
WORK



## THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR



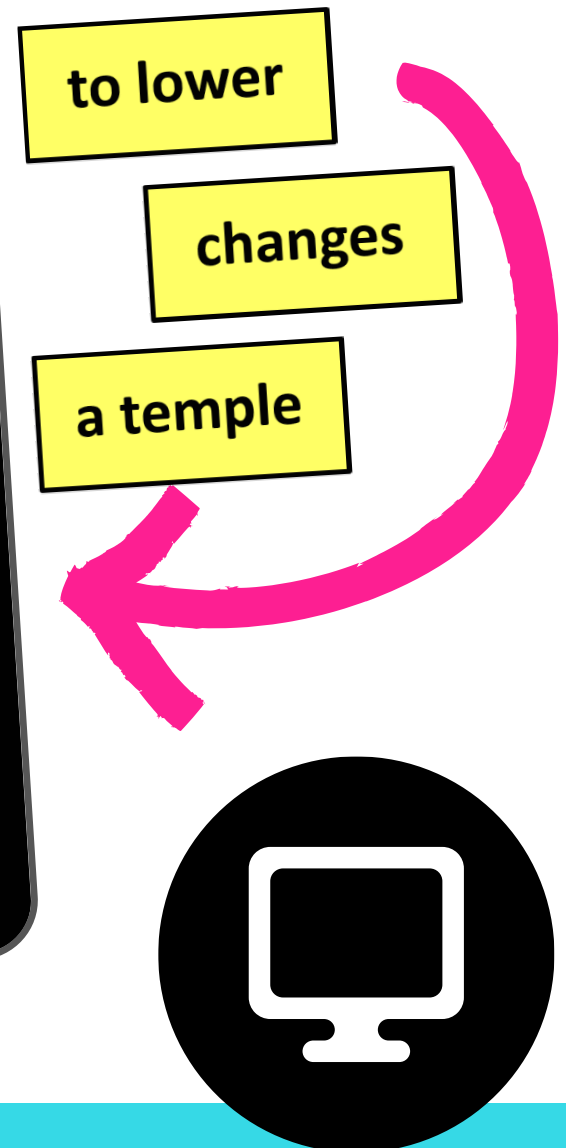
# VOCABULARY

TARGET WORDS IN CONTEXT  
FROM THE PASSAGE  
WITH INTERACTIVE PRACTICE!

**VOCABULARY**  
*from the two texts*

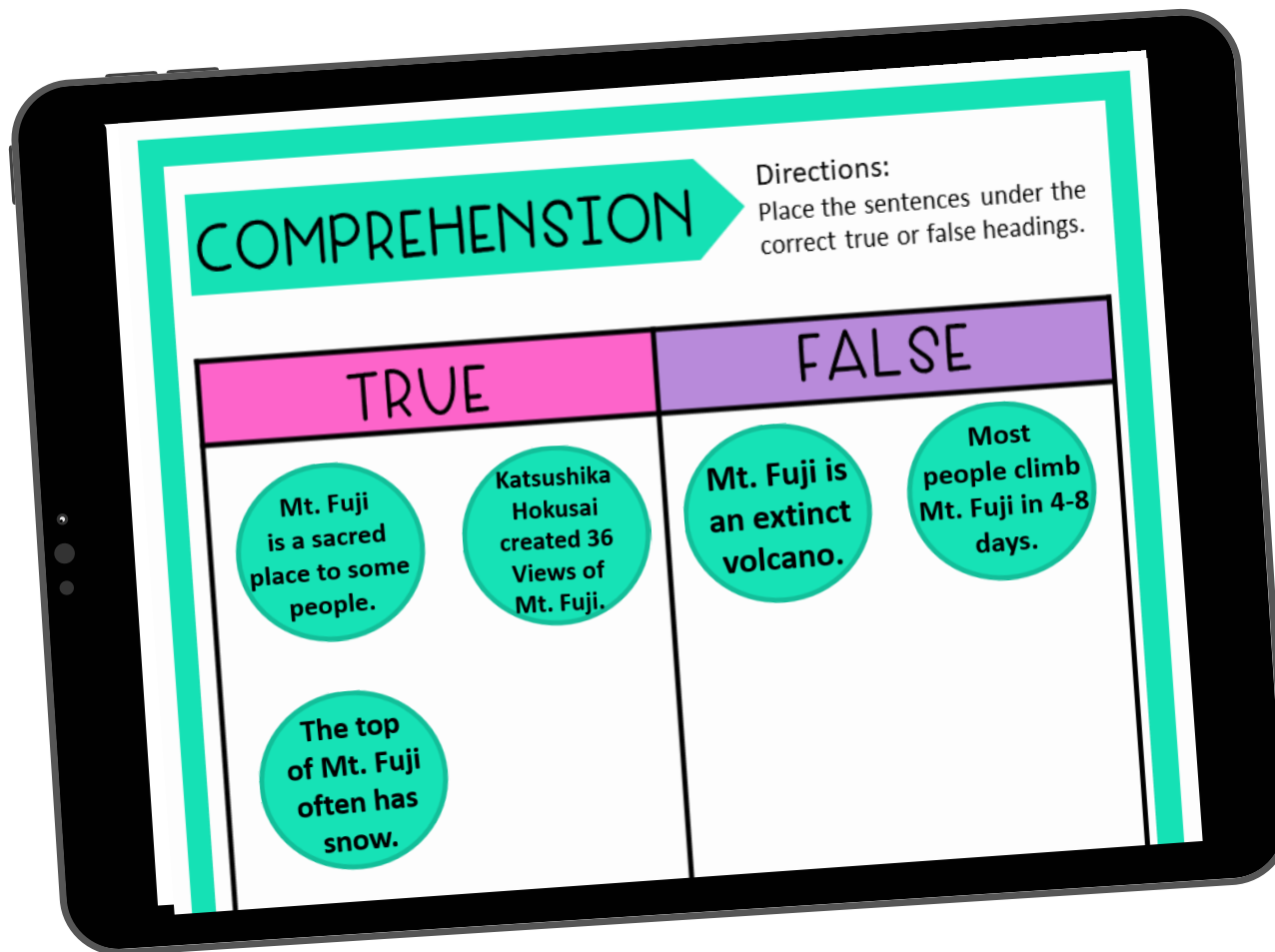
Directions:  
Match the meaning to its  
related vocabulary word.

summit	sacred	decrease
the top of the mountain	holy, dedicated to a religious purpose	
varies	pilgrimage	formed
	a religious trip	created or made
shrine	symmetrical	spewed



# COMPREHENSION

STUDENTS PRACTICE  
DIGGING INTO THE TEXT  
TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING!



**COMPREHENSION**

Directions:  
Place the sentences under the  
correct true or false headings.

TRUE	FALSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mt. Fuji is a sacred place to some people.</li><li>Katsushika Hokusai created 36 Views of Mt. Fuji.</li><li>The top of Mt. Fuji often has snow.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mt. Fuji is an extinct volcano.</li><li>Most people climb Mt. Fuji in 4-8 days.</li></ul>

Katsushika  
Hokusai was  
an actor.

Mt. Fuji  
is in  
China.

Mt. Fuji  
can be  
challenging  
to climb.



# SKILLS FOCUSED

## REINFORCE

## PAIRED TEXTS CONCEPTS USING A VARIETY OF APPROACHES!

### MORE PAIRED PASSAGES

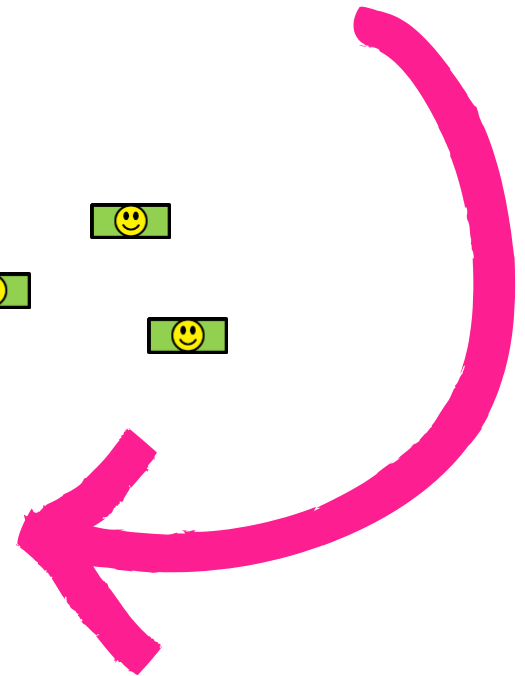
Directions:  
Read each mini-passage. Does the  
detail describe Japan, Washington  
D.C., or both? Add a happy face to  
answer.

#### JAPAN'S CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Japan is known around the world for its cherry blossom festivals. This 1,000 year old custom involves *hanami*, which means flower viewing. People in Japan eagerly await the annual blooming of over 600 species of cherry trees. The trees bloom in different locations from January to May. Each tree has beautiful pink or white blossoms which last for a week to ten days. Flower viewing is a fun event in Japan for friends and families. People like to bring food and drinks and have picnics, parties, and even tea ceremonies under the trees.

#### CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

In 1885, Eliza Scidmore visited Japan and fell in love with the cherry trees there. After writing letters to government officials for 24 years (asking for cherry trees to be planted in the Washington, D.C. area), the First Lady, Helen Taft, agreed with her idea. In 1912, the Mayor of Tokyo, Japan sent Washington, D.C. 3,020 cherry trees (12



# ASK THE EXPERTS

**"THIS RESOURCE WAS  
FABULOUS!"**

– L.L., 5TH GRADE TEACHER

**"MY STUDENTS LOVED  
USING THIS RESOURCE!"**

– VALORIE, 5TH GRADE TEACHER

**"LOVE YOUR RESOURCES.  
THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY  
AMAZING! SO HELPFUL"**

– COCO, 5TH GRADE SPED TEACHER

**THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR**

# KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS FAQ

## Which classrooms would benefit from a Digital Reading Paired Passages Unit like this?

This set of Paired Texts 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.**

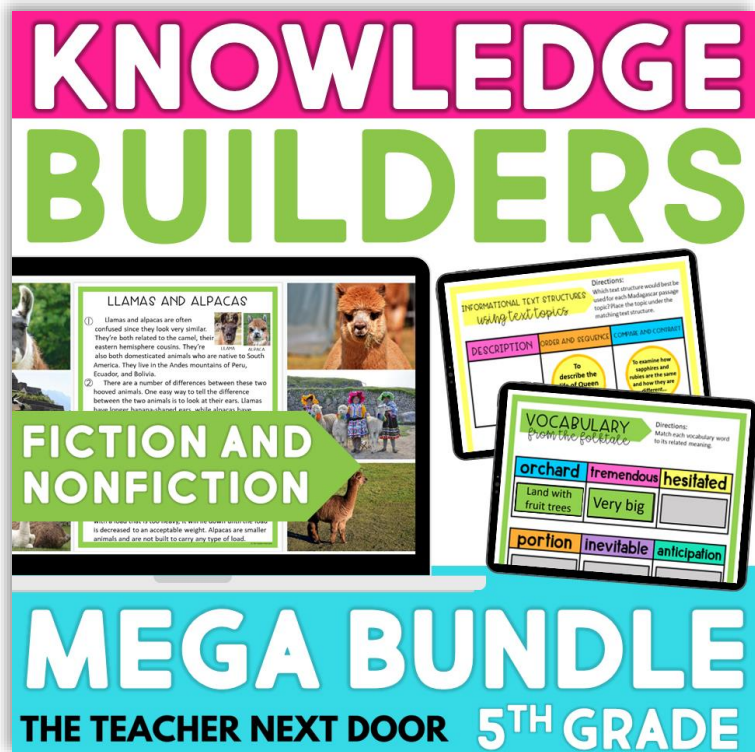
**A NOTE ABOUT OUR CEO AND FOUNDER:** Jenn Larson is the creator and founder of The Teacher Next Door. With over 20 years of experience in the classroom and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Jenn specializes in creating resources for upper elementary students. Her goal is to support teachers 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](mailto: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.**

**THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR**