

English
Language Arts
Grade 3

Reading Response Activities (Grades 3-5)

Directions: Students will read their independent reading book for 20 minutes and answer each question in complete sentences. The answers can be recorded in a reader's notebook or on lined paper.

Day 1- Write a note to a character advising him or her how to resolve a conflict from the story.

Day 2- Write a three-sentence summary of what you read today. Write the details in order.

Day 3- What was the author's message or theme of the book? Use information from the book to support your answer. Write at least 5 sentences to answer this question.

Day 4- What character in your story would you like to invite over to your house? Explain why.

Day 5- If you were the author, what's one thing you would change about the book and why?

Day 6- If you wrote a sequel to this book, what title would you give it and why?

Day 7- Describe in details the setting of your book and how it fits into the story.

Day 8- You are going to give one character in your book an award for one of their character traits. What would the award be and why?

Day 9- What lesson do you think the author wants you to learn from reading this story?

Day 10- If you could interview your favorite character, what five questions would you ask?

READING LOG LEVELS L+

Name: _____ Month of Reading Log: _____

Date	Place	Book Title	Level	Time Started	Time Ended	Page Started	Page Ended	Total Pages

Writing Prompts (Grades 3-5)

Directions: Students will write their essays in a writer's notebook or on lined paper.

Day 1- You are going to write a story about a time when you helped a person or an animal in need. Think about how you felt when you helped the person or animal, and what you learned about helping others. Here are some questions to help you think about and plan your story:

- Whom did you help, and why did they need your help?
- How did you feel when you helped this person or animal?
- Did you ever think you might not be able to help them? Why or why not?
- The next time you are faced with helping someone in need, how will you respond?
- How did this experience affect the way you feel about helping others?

Day 2- In order to save money, your principal is thinking about canceling all field trips for the remainder of the year. Write an essay persuading him or her to allow students to continue attending field trips. Use specific reasons and examples to support your response.

Day 3- Describe something that you like to do in your free time. Explain what about this activity makes it fun. Give examples of times you had fun with this activity and why it was so much fun.

- Think about a time when you had free time and able to choose whatever you wanted to do.
- Was this a weekend day?
- Is this activity something you like to do by yourself?
- Is this activity something you like to do outdoors/indoors?

Day 4- You are going to write a story about spending time with someone special. Think about the person you spent time with and what makes that person special to you?

Here are some questions to help you think about your story and plan it.

- Who did you spend time with?

- What did you and that person do?
- Why is the person special to you?
- What made the time special to you?
- What about this created a good memory for you?

Day 5- Your principal has asked students to think of a project that could be done to improve the school. What do you think? How could your school be improved? Write a letter to your principal that describes your idea and aims to persuade him/her that your project would be the best one to work on next. Give several reasons why your project would help your school. Be sure to use strong opinion words to create a convincing argument and persuade your principal that your project is best.

Day 6- Think of a favorite game you know how to play. Maybe it's a board game, video game, card game, recess game, or a game in PE. Explain how to play your favorite game to someone who has never played it before.

Day 7- You are going to write an essay to explain the qualities of a good friend. Think about your best friend. Think about the qualities that make that person a good friend. Here are some questions to help you think about and plan your essay:

- Who is this person and what do you like to do together?
- Why is this friend important to you?
- What makes this person your best friend? Why not someone else?
- What kinds of things do all good friends have in common?

Write an essay in which you describe your best friend and explain the qualities of a good friend. Be sure to include reasons and details that help your reader understand what makes a good friend and what qualities all good friends share.

Day 8- Zeena loves chocolate-covered marshmallows. She eats them for breakfast, for snacks, and for dessert. Whenever friends say it is not good to eat so many, Zeena just laughs and keeps eating. She says the chocolate gives her energy, and she loves to sink her teeth into the sticky marshmallows. They are also a cheap treat! Convince Zeena that too many chocolate-covered marshmallows could be bad for her. Include at least three reasons in your persuasive essay.

Day 9- There are many types of books and stories. The characters in books make the stories come alive. The characters may be people or animals. Think about a character that you like the most. What is your character like? What does your character do in the story? Now write an essay that explains why you selected this character as your favorite. Support your choice with specific examples and details from the story.

Day 10- Everyone has had some experience in life that will never be forgotten. It might have been humorous, major or minor. For one reason or another it has left a lasting memory. Think of something that happened to you that you remember clearly. As you retell this story, include all important details that describe your experience, such as who was involved, where you were, what happened, and why it was memorable.

Grammar Activity

Students will reread/review their writing every day.

Directions: Circle two nouns, two pronouns, two verbs, two adjectives and two adverbs in your writing. Use a different color pencil or pen. Write the part of speech above the word circled.

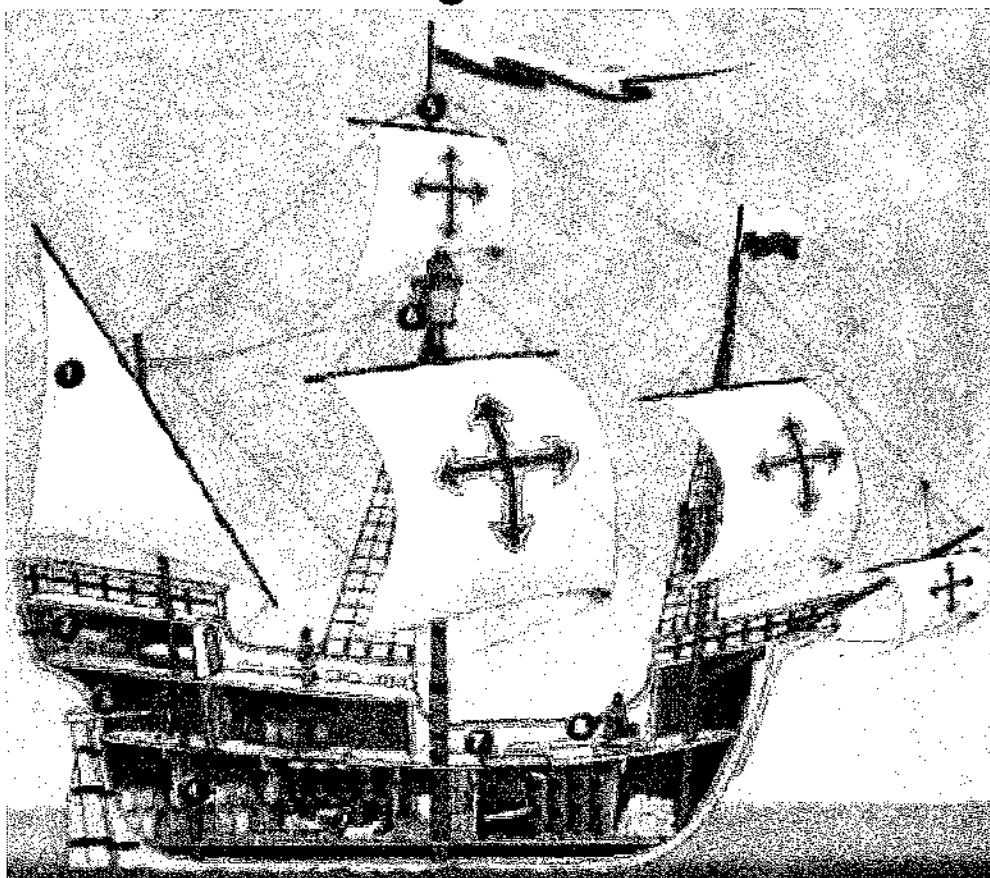
Parts of Speech:

- Nouns
- Pronouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Adverbs

Social Studies-

Grade 3

Sailing the Seas



Geoff McCormack

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail to find a shorter way between Europe and Asia. That would make it easier for people to trade. He sailed on the *Santa Maria*.

Columbus's Ship

The *Santa Maria* was small and easy to sail. Look at Columbus's ship, inside and out.

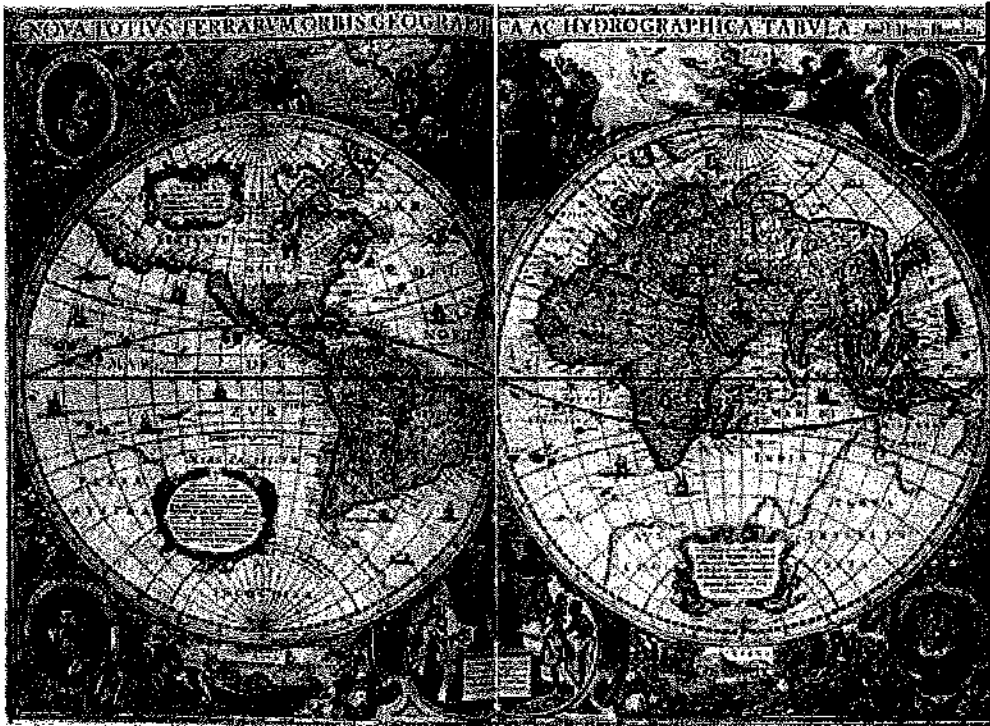
1. **Sails** are large sheets of strong cloth that catch the wind as it blows and help a ship move.
2. A **cabin** is a small room on a ship. The cabin had a bed called a bunk. Columbus was the only person with a bunk.
3. A **tiller** is a long handle that turns a ship. The crew steered the ship from the **tiller room**.

4. A **hold** is an area below deck. Animals and supplies, such as food and water, were kept in the hold.
5. A **mast** is a pole that holds up a ship's sails. The *Santa Maria's* main mast was 65 feet tall - about the height of two telephone poles!
6. The **crow's nest** is the small basket on the mast. It is where a sailor stands watch.
7. The **deck** is the flat area on top of the ship. Columbus's crew worked and slept there.
8. A **firebox** is a kind of stove that the crew used for cooking.

Steering on the Sea

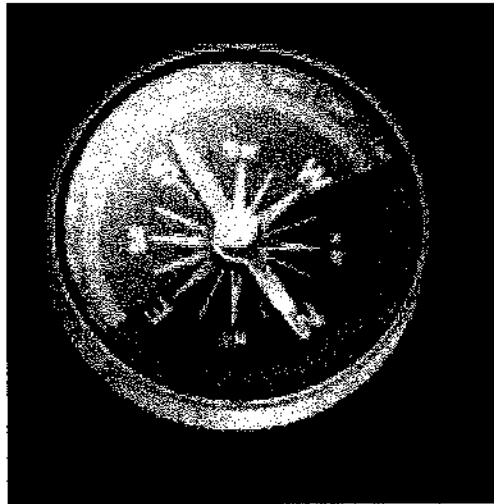
Columbus and his crew traveled to many new places. Look at some of the different tools they used to find their way.

A **map** is a drawing of Earth's water and land.

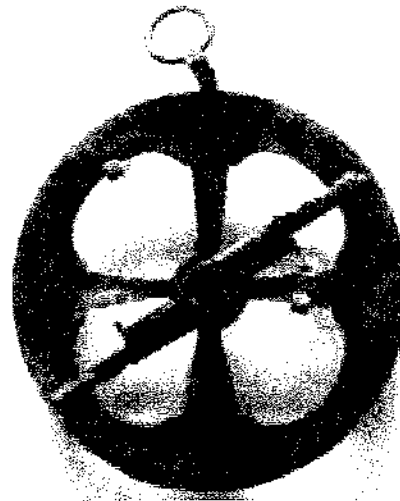


World map that first appeared in 1633

A **compass** has a needle that points north. This tool showed the crew the direction in which they were sailing.



An **astrolabe** is a tool sailors used to tell how far north or south a ship was by looking at the stars.



Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of the following best describes what the mast does?

- A. The mast is used for storage.
- B. The mast steers the ship.
- C. The mast is used for cooking.
- D. The mast holds up the sails.

2. What do all the items described in this text have in common?

- A. They were all places for the crew.
- B. They were all located in Europe.
- C. They were all part of Columbus's ship.
- D. They were all used for finding the way.

3. It can be inferred from the text that

- A. being a sailor on the ship would have been extremely easy
- B. being a sailor on the ship would have been a well paying job
- C. being a sailor on the ship would have involved many physical challenges
- D. being a sailor on the ship would have been very boring

4. Read the following sentences:

"In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail to find a shorter way between Europe and Asia. That would make it easier for people to trade."

In this sentence the word **trade** means

- A. buying and selling things
- B. giving things away
- C. giving one thing and getting another back
- D. sending things to another person

5. What would be another good title for this passage?

- A. The Famous Voyages of Christopher Columbus
- B. Columbus and the *Santa Maria*
- C. Tools to Steer on the Sea
- D. A Small Ship

6. Describe Columbus's ship, the *Santa Maria*.

7. Why were sails one of the most important parts of the ship?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Columbus wanted to find a shorter way to get from Europe to Asia _____ it would be easier to trade.

- A. after
- B. however
- C. but
- D. so

A New Home



Anthony Castillo calls two countries home. The 8-year-old was born in the Dominican Republic, a country in the Caribbean Sea. Later, Anthony moved to New York City. Some of his relatives still live in the Dominican Republic.

"I didn't like living [in the United States] at first. But now I do," Anthony told *Weekly Reader*. Anthony started to like his new home after he made some friends. He said that, in a way, he has already "seen the world" by having lived in two countries.

Today in the United States, millions of people are like Anthony. A government report said 56 million Americans come from another country. That means one in five Americans was either born in another country or has parents who were born elsewhere.

From Far and Away

The United States is often called a melting pot. That's because the parents or grandparents of most of the people who live in the United States came from other countries. People who move from one country to another are called immigrants.

The people who are now moving to the United States come from nearly every country in the world. However, most of them come from Mexico, China, India, Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. All those countries are located south of the United States or in Asia.

"[The United States] is made up of people who are so different [from one another]," said one of the report's authors. "This is what the United States is famous for. It is a very diverse place, with people of all kinds of backgrounds. And that is great!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Anthony Castillo says that he has "seen the world." This means

- A. he has been to many other countries.
- B. living in two countries has taught him a lot about people from different parts of the world.
- C. living in New York exposes him to people from around the world.
- D. he went through many countries traveling from the Dominican Republic to the United States.

2. The author quotes a writer from the government report in order to

- A. add the writer's view on the diversity of the United States.
- B. give the reader more facts in the writer's voice.
- C. inform the reader about writing reports.
- D. add the writer's view on working with the government.

3. _____ Americans were either born in another country or have parents who were born in another country.

- A. One in fifty
- B. One in twenty
- C. One in ten
- D. One in five

4. The author says the United States is a "melting pot." That means

- A. Living in a diverse community means that you start celebrating different holidays.
- B. The food in the United States is an example of how diverse the people are.
- C. The United States is a mix of people from all kinds of backgrounds and countries.
- D. Immigrants lose their culture when they move here from other countries.

5. The author says that Anthony "calls two countries home." What does that mean?