

Close Reading

Plus Writing Activities

Christmas Is... By Gail Gibbons



Teaching World Holidays through
Reading, Comprehension, Vocabulary,
Posters, and Reflection

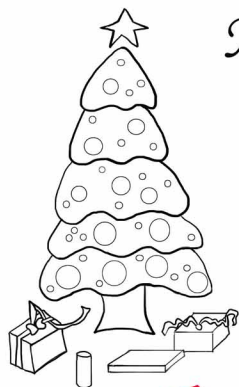
Qiang Ma

Merry Christmas

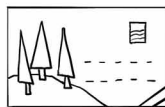
December 25th

©Qiang Ma

To celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus



Decorate Christmas tree
Exchange gifts



Families and friends:
Get together for a feast
Send Christmas cards



Joyous atmosphere:

Poinsettia



Jingle bell

Wreath



Christmas carols



Gingerbread house



Merry Christmas

December 25th

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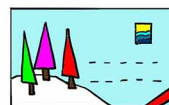
To celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus



Decorate Christmas tree
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Santa Claus:
Ride his reindeers
Slide down chimneys to fill stockings with gifts



Families and friends:
Get together for a feast
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Joyous atmosphere:

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Jingle bell

Wreath



Christmas carols



Gingerbread house

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Name: _____ F: _____ Date: _____

Christmas Is... Close Reading Organizer

Title: _____

Things to remember
Colors to mark the passage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the title in yellow. Underline topic sentence in green. Circle the important words about Christmas in red. Use close reading symbols throughout text.
CLOSE reading symbols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check Mark (✓) – understands story Star (*) – something is important Exclamation mark (!) – something new, something that is surprising Question mark (?) – unsure, don't understand it

The main idea of this passage is to _____

What have you learned about Christmas?

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Name: _____ F: _____ Date: _____

Christmas Is... Close Reading Organizer

Title: Christmas Is...

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The main idea of this passage is to introduce the history of Christmas.

What have you learned about Christmas?

I learned that Christmas has a long history.

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Christmas

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is on December 25th.

Many years ago in the town of Bethlehem, the baby Jesus was born in a stable. Angels announced the birth of Christ the Lord. Three shepherds traveled to Bethlehem by following a bright star over Bethlehem and brought the Christ child gifts. A crèche is a display of the stable scene at the birth of the Christ child.

Saint Nicholas loved giving gifts and helping people. He lived a long time ago. Over time, he became known as Santa Claus. It is said that Saint Nicholas threw three bags of gold down a chimney where three poor girls lived. One of the bags landed in a stocking hung by the chimney to dry. Maybe that is why nowadays stockings are hung for Santa to fill, and why some people think Santa slides down chimneys. Many people say Santa Claus jumps into his sleigh on Christmas Eve to deliver gifts. His reindeer lead him through the starry sky.

People decorate evergreen Christmas trees. Some people bring a tree home and bring it home to decorate. Many people hang lights on their Christmas trees. The lights look like heavenly stars. The star on top of the tree represents the bright star that appeared over Bethlehem. Some people hang stockings on the chimney and fill the stockings with gifts. Santa will slide down the chimney and fill the stockings with gifts.

There are many other Christmas traditions. In Central America it is called the Flower of the Holy Night. People remember family and friends, and send cards wishing them joy. The three wise men brought gifts to the Christ child. Christmas is a time of giving gifts to show love for others. There may be special foods and candies. Often families and friends get together for a Christmas feast. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, many people go to church to hear the story of the Christ child's birth. They pray for good throughout the world.

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✓ ☆ ! ?

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Text Dependent Questions

What does Christmas celebrate?	Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.
Which day of the year is Christmas?	Christmas is on December 25 th .
Why do people think Santa will slide down the chimney and fill the stockings with gifts?	People think Santa will slide down the chimney and fill the stockings with gifts because of the story saying: Santa threw three bags of gold down a chimney where three poor girls lived. One bag landed in a stocking hung by the chimney to dry.
List at least two activities people do to celebrate Christmas.	To celebrate Christmas, people have many activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display a crèche • Hung stockings for Santa to fill • Decorate Christmas tree • Get poinsettia • Send cards • Give gifts • Enjoy feast with families and friends • Go to church to pray

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Vocabulary

celebrate	Honor, praise publicly usually with a happy gathering or party.
decorate	Make (something) look more beautiful or attractive by adding things to it.
evergreen	Green, round, perpetual.
joyous	Happy, cheerful, delighted.
atmosphere	Air, tone or mood of a place or a situation.
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Getting Started: Christmas Close Reading Lesson

1. It is suggested to prepare the following items:

Item	Teacher	Student
1 Empty page for Christmas Is... by Gail Gibbons	V	
Lesson Plan	V	
Vocab Poster	V	
	* Teacher can blow the original black and white sample into a poster.	
Info Organizer	V	V
Blank Paper for Drawing on Day 1	V	V
1 Reading Passage	V	V
1 Text Dependent Questions Set	V	V
Vocabulary	V	V
2 Christmas Black Line Drawings (with/without labels)	V	
2 Christmas Color Drawings (with/without labels)	* Teacher can blow the original black and white sample into a poster and color it.	* Students may create the poster in groups by using teacher's sample. It makes a great classroom object.
Teacher Preparation Sample Package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Christmas Color Drawing with labels • 1 Vocab Poster with Post-it notes • 1 Info Organizer completed • 1 Reading Passage with answers • 1 Text Dependent Questions Set with answers • 1 Vocab Sheet with answers 	* I tried to try to make it as possible for you to use it. In fact, the more you are going to use it, the more you will write to model for your students.	
Sharpie	V	V
Crayon/Markers	V	V
Post-It	*	

V: must, *: optional

2. Read the lesson plan.
3. Look at the finished sample works included.
4. Photocopy 5 page package (1 Empty page, 1 Info Organizer, 1 Reading Passage, 1 Text Dependent Questions Sets, and 1 Vocab Sheet), for students. Make an extra set for the teacher to use.
5. The lesson is designed to cross curriculum topics: ELA, Social Studies/World Holidays/Christmas, and Fine Arts using close reading and GLD strategies.

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Credits

I draw all the clipart myself for all the products in my store.

Thank you so much and I hope you enjoy this lesson.

