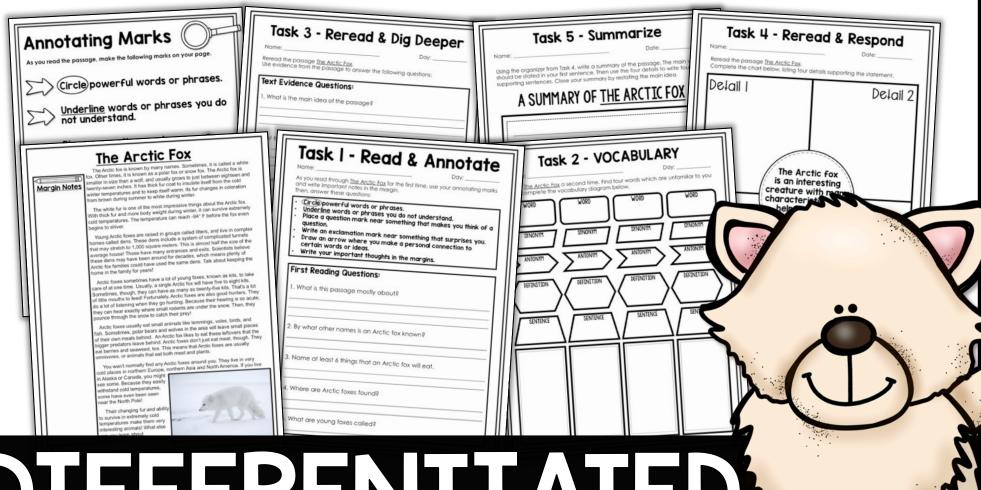
# ARCTIC FOX



# DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT

CREATED BY: SHELLY REES

# 2 Different Reading Levels

#### The Arctic Fox

The Arctic fox is known by many names. Sometimes, it is called a white Ox. Other times, it is known as a polar fox or snow fox. The Arctic fox is smaller in size than a wolf, and usually grows to just between eighteen and twenty-seven inches. It has thick fur coat to insulate itself from the cold winter temperatures and to keep itself warm. Its fur changes in coloration from brown during summer to white during winter.

The white fur is one of the most impressive things about With thick fur and more body weight during winter, it can cold temperatures. The temperature can reach -94° F ba begins to shiver.

Young Arctic foxes are raised in groups called litters, nomes called dens. These dens include a system of co that may stretch to 1,000 square meters. This is almost average house! These have many entrances and exit these dens may have been around for decades, which Arctic fox families could have used the same dens. home in the family for years!

Arctic foxes sometimes have a lot of young foxes care of at one time. Usually, a single Arctic fox will Sometimes, though, they can have as many as tw of little mouths to feed! Fortunately, Arctic foxes a do a lot of listening when they go hunting. Because they can hear exactly where small rodents are un pounce through the snow to catch their prey!

Arctic foxes usually eat small animals like let fish. Sometimes, polar bears and wolves in the of their own meals behind. An Arctic fox likes bigger predators leave behind. Arctic foxes do eat berries and seaweed, too. This means the omnivores, or animals that eat both meat and

You won't normally find any Arctic foxes cold places in northern Europe, northern As in Alaska or Canada, you might see some. Because they easily withstand cold temperatures, some have even been seen near the North Pole!

Their changing fur and ability to survive in extremely cold temperatures make them very interesting animals! What else can you learn about Arctic foxes?

#### **High-Interest** Passage!

#### The Arctic Fox

Margin Notes

The Arctic fox is known by many names. Sometimes, it is called a white fox. Other times, it is known as a polar fox or snow fox. The Arctic fox is smaller in size than a wolf. It usually grows to just between eighteen and twenty-seven inches. It has a thick fur coat to keep itself warm in the cold winter temperatures. Its fur changes color from brown during summer to

The white fur is one of the most impressive things about the Arctic fox. With this thick fur and more body weight during winter, it can survive very cold temperatures. The temperature can reach -94° F before the fox even

Young Arctic foxes are raised in groups called litters. They live in big homes called dens. These dens include a system of tunnels that may stretch to 1,000 square meters. This is almost half the size of the average house! These have many entrances and exits. Scientists believe these dens may have been around for many years. This means plenty of Arctic fox families could have used the same dens. Talk about keeping the home

Arctic foxes sometimes have a lot of young foxes, known as kits, to take care of at one time. Usually, a single Arctic fox will have five to eight kits. Sometimes, though, they can have as many as twenty-five kits. That's a lot of little mouths to feed! Luckily, Arctic foxes are also good hunters. They do a lot of listening when they go hunting. Their hearing is very good. They can hear exactly where small rodents are under the snow. They easily pounce through the snow to catch their prey!

Arctic foxes usually eat small animals like lemmings, voles, birds, and fish. Sometimes, polar bears and wolves in the area will leave some of their own meals behind. An Arctic fox likes to eat these leftovers that the bigger animals leave behind. Arctic foxes don't just eat meat. They eat berries and seaweed, too. This means that Arctic foxes are usually omnivores. An omnivore is an animal that eats both meat and plants.

You probably won't find any Arctic foxes around you. They live in very cold places in northern

Europe, northern Asia and North America. If you live in Alaska or Canada, you might see some. Some have even been seen near the North Pole!

Their changing fur and ability to survive in cold temperatures make them very interesting animals! What else can you learn about Arctic foxes?



The **easier** passage has a

in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a

▲ in the bottom left corner.

Margin Notes

## Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

#### CLOSE READING STE

contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the par to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each should take one week to complete.



1st Reading: Student reads the passag As they read, they use their annotation identify unfamiliar words, questions th and parts of the passage that they c with. Complete Task 1: Read & Anno also includes some basic recall que



2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Teacher (or partner) r passage a second time while stud follow along. Have students comp Vocabulary. This allows students t understanding of unfamiliar word passage, leading to a deeper co the text.



3rd Reading: Students reread th then responds in writing, citing students complete Task 3: Rere This page of questions requires and cite text evidence when questions. Additionally, stude Task 4: Reread and Respond Summarize. These final tasks use the text evidence to writ and supported summary.

#### Annotating Marks

As you read the passage, make the following marks of



(Circle) powerful words or



<u>Underline</u> words or phrase not understand.



Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.



Write an exclamation mark n something that surprises you



Draw an arrow where you ma personal connection to certain words or ideas.



Write your important thoughts in the margins.

showed a le here

#### ABOUT THIS PACKET

activities for each passage. The Close Reading passages included in this packet are each provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may more easily differentiate your instruction, The informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All question sheets are the same. This makes it easy for you to provide reading passages on each student's level, but use the same question and activity sheets for the entire class!

The **easier** passage has a in the bottom left corner.

The more difficult passage has a lacktriangle in the bottom left corner.

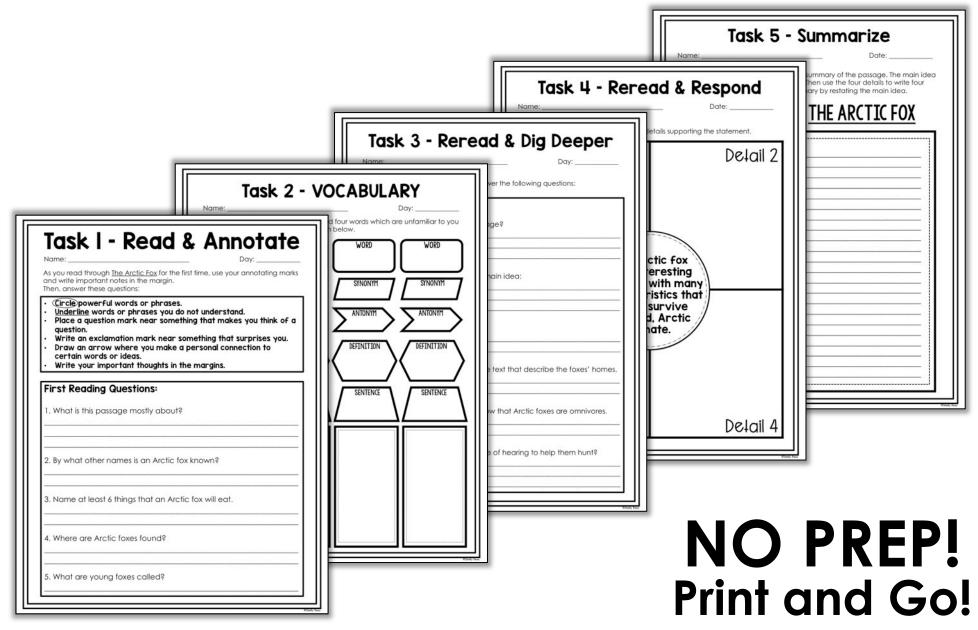
Each passage with its activities is designed for a 5-day time frame, following this schedule:

2001	Title of Activity	Purpose	
Day	Task 1:	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.	
_	Read and Annotate	Read passage for the second time. Students choose	
2	Task 2: Vocabulary		
3	Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.	
	Took A:	Students use the graphic organizer to technique.	
4	Reread and Respond		
5	Task 5: Summarize	Using the completed graphic organizer from students write a summary supporting details for the passage.	

passage are provided in this chart

e reading levels for each differentiated passage are	Symbol	Lexile Level
Passage Title		720
	_	940
Mozart – Musical Genius		780
f Little Leggue	_	1,000
The History of Little League		740
Listania of Honey	_	950
The Sweet Story of Honey		800
w. Jain aton Carver	_	1,030
George Washington Carver		750
The United States Constitution		930

# 5 Days of Close Reading Activities for GREATER Reading Comprehension



# Answer Keys Provided

### Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

#### THE ARCTIC FOX ANSWER KEY

Text Evidence Questions: Some answers may vary.

The Arctic fox is an interesting animal that has many characteristics which help it to survive in the cold, Arctic climate.

- 2. List three details that support the main idea:
- a) It thick, fur coat changes from brown to white in the winter months The Arctic fox can survive very cold temperatures, even at -94° F.
- c) Arctic foxes eat leftovers from larger animals' meals.
- 3. Describe the size of the Arctic fox.

The Arctic fox grows to between 18 and 27 inches. It is smaller in size t a wolf.

- 4. Cite 2 pieces of evidence from the text that describe the foxes'
- They live in big homes called dens.
- The dens have a system of tunnels that stretch to 1,000 say
- 5. Cite 2 pieces of evidence that s
- a) Foxes eat small
- b) They eat l

of hearing to help them can hear exactly where small 6. How do Arcti under the snow, and they pounce through the snow to catch

## Task I - Read & Annotate

#### THE ARCTIC FOX ANSWER KEY

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you. Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

#### First Reading Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly ab help it survive the

fox and its characteristics that

tic fox known?

a white fox, a polar fox, or a snow fox.

6 things that an Arctic fox will eat.

ox will eat lemmings, voles, birds, fish, leftovers from larger ls, berries, and seaweed.

4. Where are Arctic foxes found?

They are found in cold places in northern Europe, northern Asia, and North America. They have been seen in Alaska, Canada, and the North

5. What are young foxes called? Young foxes are called kits