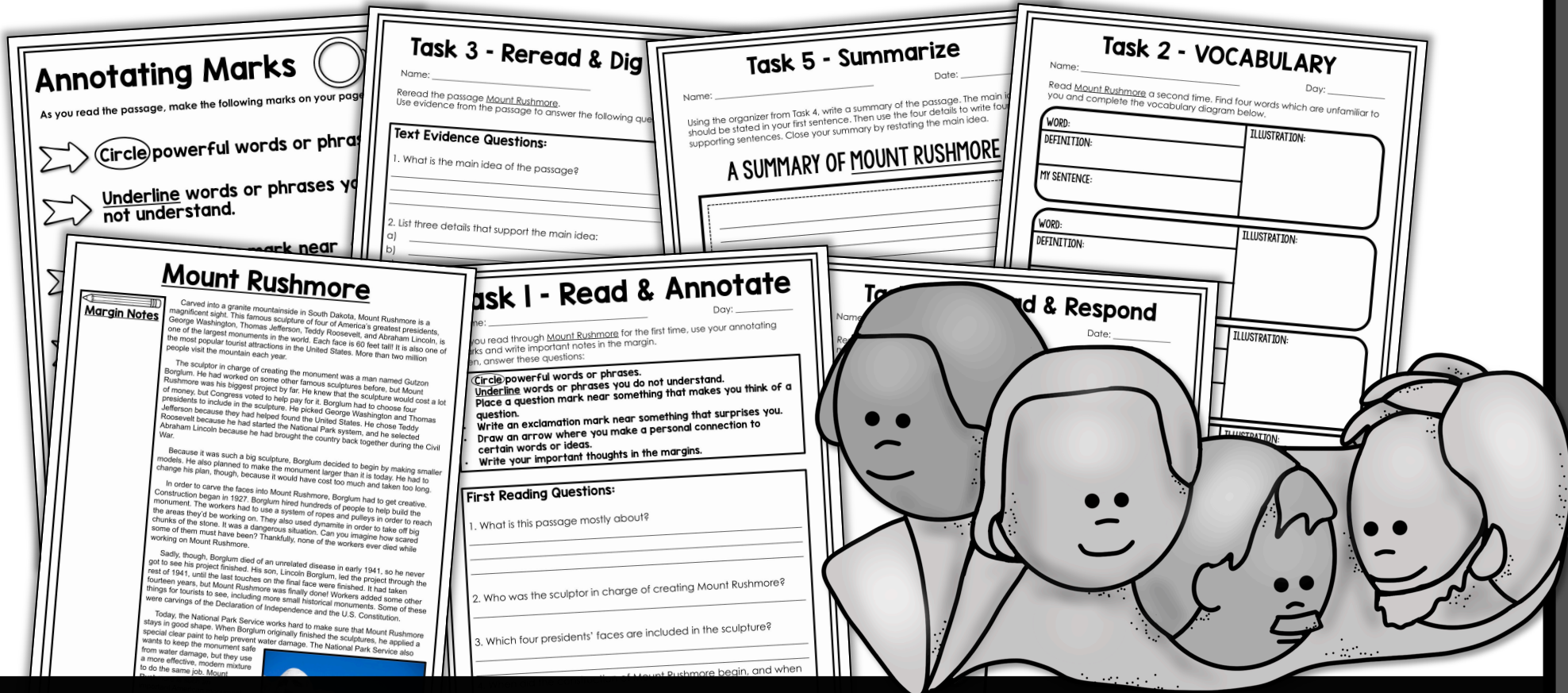


MT. RUSHMORE



DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT

2 Different Reading Levels

High-Interest Passage!

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

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

Mount Rushmore

Margin Notes

Carved into a mountainside in South Dakota, Mount Rushmore is an amazing sight. This famous sculpture is one of the largest monuments in the world. It includes four of America's greatest presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Each face is 60 feet tall! It is also one of the most popular tourist attractions in the United States. More than two million people visit the mountain each year.

The man in charge of creating the monument was a sculptor named Gutzon Borglum. He had worked on some other famous sculptures before, but Mount Rushmore was his biggest project by far. He knew that it would cost a lot of money. Congress helped by paying for it. Borglum picked four presidents to include in the sculpture. He picked George Washington, Thomas Jefferson because they had helped found the United States, Teddy Roosevelt because he had started the National Park system, and Abraham Lincoln because he had brought the country back together during the Civil War.

Because it was such a big sculpture, Borglum decided to make smaller models. He also planned to make the monument larger than it is today. He had to change his plan, though, because it would have cost too long.

In order to carve the faces into Mount Rushmore, Borglum hired hundreds of workers. The workers had to use ropes and pulleys to get the dynamite to the areas they'd be working on. They also used dynamite in order to take off big chunks of the stone. It was a dangerous situation. Can you imagine how scared some of them must have been? Thankfully, none of the workers ever died while working on Mount Rushmore.

Sadly, Borglum died of a sickness in early 1941, so he never got to see his project finished. His son, Lincoln Borglum, led the project through the rest of 1941, until the last touches on the final face were finished. It had taken fourteen years, but Mount Rushmore was finally done! Workers added some other things for tourists to see, including more small historical monuments. Some of these were carvings of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Today, the National Park Service works hard to make sure that Mount Rushmore stays in good shape. When Borglum originally finished the sculptures, he applied a special clear paint to help prevent water damage. The National Park Service also wants to keep the monument safe from water damage, but they use a more modern mixture to do the same job. Mount Rushmore is such an important American monument that they even use lasers to scan the mountainside to check for problems. Hopefully this important American treasure will be around for centuries to come!

Mount Rushmore

Margin Notes

Carved into a granite mountainside in South Dakota, Mount Rushmore is a magnificent sight. This famous sculpture of four of America's greatest presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln, is one of the largest monuments in the world. Each face is 60 feet tall! It is also one of the most popular tourist attractions in the United States. More than two million people visit the mountain each year.

The sculptor in charge of creating the monument was a man named Gutzon Borglum. He had worked on some other famous sculptures before, but Mount Rushmore was his biggest project by far. He knew that the sculpture would cost a lot of money, but Congress voted to help pay for it. Borglum had to choose four presidents to include in the sculpture. He picked George Washington and Thomas Jefferson because they had helped found the United States. He chose Teddy Roosevelt because he had started the National Park system, and he selected Abraham Lincoln because he had brought the country back together during the Civil War.

Because it was such a big sculpture, Borglum decided to begin by making smaller models. He also planned to make the monument larger than it is today. He had to change his plan, though, because it would have cost too much and taken too long.

In order to carve the faces into Mount Rushmore, Borglum had to get creative. Construction began in 1927. Borglum hired hundreds of people to help build the monument. The workers had to use a system of ropes and pulleys in order to reach the areas they'd be working on. They also used dynamite in order to take off big chunks of the stone. It was a dangerous situation. Can you imagine how scared some of them must have been? Thankfully, none of the workers ever died while working on Mount Rushmore.

Sadly, though, Borglum died of an unrelated disease in early 1941, so he never got to see his project finished. His son, Lincoln Borglum, led the project through the rest of 1941, until the last touches on the final face were finished. It had taken fourteen years, but Mount Rushmore was finally done! Workers added some other things for tourists to see, including more small historical monuments. Some of these were carvings of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Today, the National Park Service works hard to make sure that Mount Rushmore stays in good shape. When Borglum originally finished the sculptures, he applied a special clear paint to help prevent water damage. The National Park Service also wants to keep the monument safe from water damage, but they use a more effective, modern mixture to do the same job. Mount Rushmore is such an important American monument that they even use lasers to scan the mountainside to check for problems. Hopefully this important American treasure will be around for centuries to come!



Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

CLOSE READING STEPS

The following steps are a **suggested sequence** in which you could approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of the passage, each requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is 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 passage. As they read, they use their annotation symbols to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they agree with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**. This task also includes some basic recall questions.



2nd Reading: Teacher (or partner) rereads the passage a second time while students follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to demonstrate their understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage, leading to a deeper comprehension of the text.



3rd Reading: Students reread the passage then responds in writing, citing text evidence. Students complete **Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper**. This page of questions requires students to cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 4: Reread and Respond**. These final tasks use the text evidence to write a supported summary.

Annotating Marks

As you read the passage, make the following marks on the text:



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 question.



Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.



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



Write your important thoughts in the margins.

Wow! The character showed a lot of courage here...

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The first part of this packet includes 5 reading passages and one week's worth of reading 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. All the informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All the 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!

NOTE:

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.
The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

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

Day	Title of Activity	Purpose
1	Task 1: Read and Annotate	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.
2	Task 2: Vocabulary	Read passage for the second time. Students choose vocabulary words that are unknown to them and complete the vocabulary activity using those words.
3	Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.
4	Task 4: Reread and Respond	Students use the graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
5	Task 5: Summarize	Using the completed graphic organizer from Day 4, students write a summary supporting details for the passage.

The reading levels for each differentiated passage are provided in this chart:

Passage Title	Symbol	Lexile Level
Mozart – Musical Genius	■	720
	▲	940
The History of Little League	■	780
	▲	1,000
The Sweet Story of Honey	■	740
	▲	950
George Washington Carver	■	800
	▲	1,030
The United States Constitution	■	750
	▲	930

5 Days of Close Reading Activities for GREATER Reading Comprehension

Task 5 - Summarize

Name _____

Date: _____

Task 4 - Reread & Respond

Name _____

Date: _____

Complete the chart below, listing the
the passage.

Detail 2

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

Day: _____

the following questions:

and four words which are unfamiliar to you below.

ILLUSTRATION:

ILLUSTRATION:

ILLUSTRATION:

ILLUSTRATION:

Task 2 - VOCABULARY

Name: _____

Day:

Task I - Read & Annotate

Name: _____

Day: _____

As you read through Mount Rushmore for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin.
Then, answer these questions:

- 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 question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

First Reading Questions:

1. What is this passage mostly about?

2. Who was the sculptor in charge of creating Mount Rushmore?

3. Which four presidents' faces are included in the sculpture?

4. When did the construction of Mount Rushmore begin, and when did it end?

Summary of the passage. The main idea is to use the four details to write four sentences by restating the main idea.

HUNT RUSHMORE

NO PREP!

Print and Go!

Answer Keys Provided

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deep

MOUNT RUSHMORE ANSWER KEY

Text Evidence Questions: Answers may vary.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
Mount Rushmore, an amazing sculpture of 4 presidents, took challenging years to build.

2. List three details that support the main idea:
a) Borglum knew it would take a lot of money to build, so he decided to help with the cost.
b) The workers had to use a system of ropes and pulleys.
c) Construction began in 1927 and ended in 1941.

3. Why did Borglum choose to include Teddy Roosevelt's faces on Mount Rushmore?
He chose Teddy Roosevelt because he was the president who created the national park system.

4. Cite 2 pieces of evidence from the text that show the challenges Borglum faced while creating the sculpture.

a) The workers used a system of ropes and pulleys to move heavy stones.
b) They used dynamite to carve the rock.

5. Why was it difficult to carve the faces?
They used a system of ropes and pulleys to move heavy stones. They also used dynamite to carve the rock.

6. Why do you think so many tourists visit Mount Rushmore?
The sculpture is an amazing sight, with each face 14 feet tall.

Task 1 - Read & Annotate

MOUNT RUSHMORE 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 question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

First Reading Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is this passage mostly about?
This passage gives a history of the making of Mount Rushmore.

2. Who was in charge of creating Mount Rushmore?

Gutzon Borglum was the sculptor in charge of the project.

3. Which four presidents' faces are included in the sculpture?
The four presidents included in the sculpture are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

4. When did the construction of Mount Rushmore begin, and when did it end?

The construction began in 1927 and ended in 1941.

