READING PASSAGES
PRINTABLE & DIGITAL

35 nonfiction reading passages

for use with google forms!
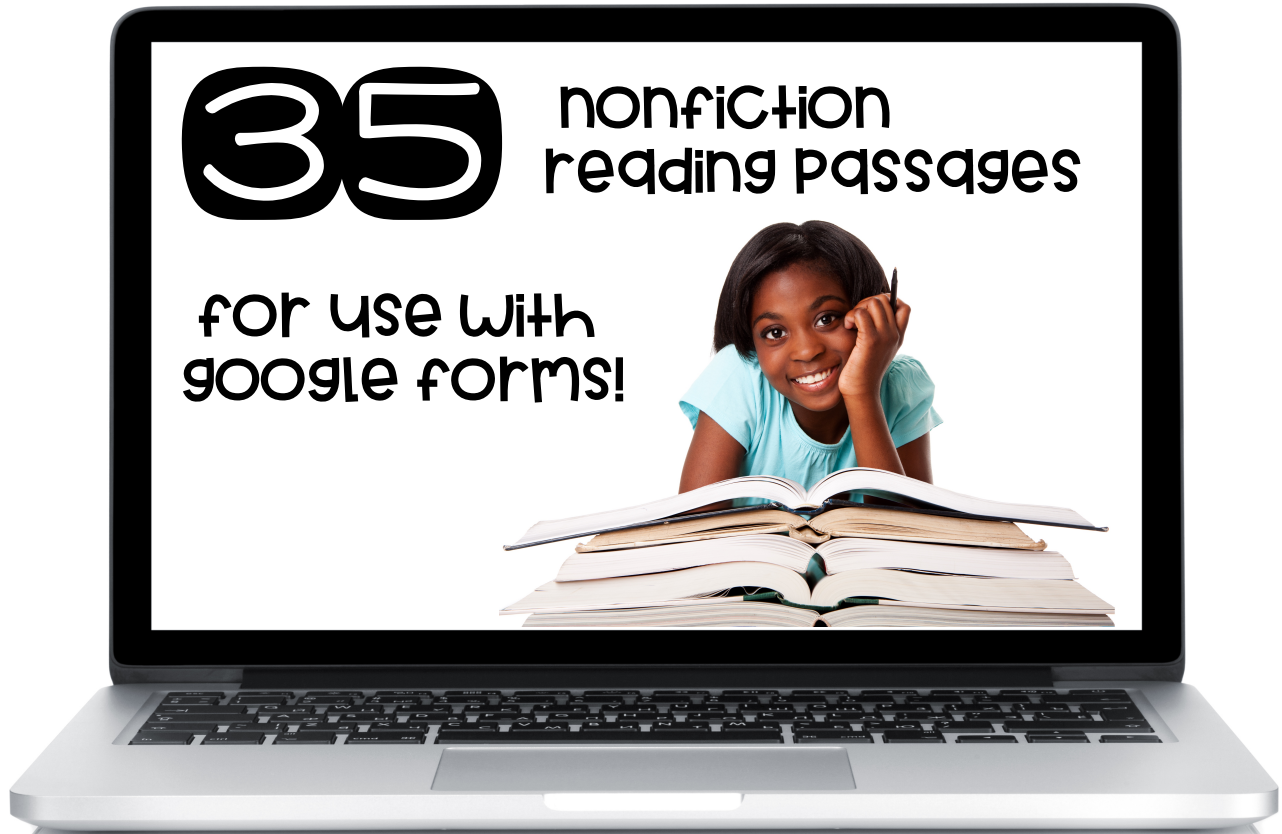
BUNDLE FOR THE YEAR
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READING PASSAGES

35 HIGH-INTEREST, NONFICTION READING PASSAGES THAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL LOVE!

FAMOUS INVENTORS
- The Wright Brothers
- Eli Whitney
- Henry Ford
- Thomas Edison
- George Washington Carver

DEADLY OCEAN ANIMALS
- Stonefish
- Stingray
- Barracuda
- Blue-Ringed Octopus
- Box Jellyfish

SNAKES
- Saw-Scaled Vipers
- Rattlesnakes
- King Cobra
- Boa Constrictor
- Black Mamba

DANGEROUS SPIDERS
- Black Widow
- Wolf Spider
- Brown Recluse
- Funnel Web Spider
- Brazilian Wandering Spider

YELLOWSTONE ANIMALS
- Cougars
- Coyotes
- Black Bear
- Bighorn Sheep
- Bison

BASEBALL GREATS
- Roberto Clemente
- Jackie Robinson
- Babe Ruth
- Ty Cobb
- Willie Mays

REPTILES
- Tortoise
- Sea Turtles
- Iguanas
- Crocodiles
- Alligators

35 HIGH-INTEREST READING PASSAGES WITH QUESTIONS

STINGRAYS

One of the oldest ocean creatures is the stingray. Having patrolled the ocean's waters for 100 million years, this graceful ocean creature is also dangerous. Unfortunately, today, many of the world's stingrays are endangered.

Most stingrays are found in warm coastal oceans, but there are a few species of freshwater stingrays. For example, the ocellate river stingray lives in the Amazon River system. Featuring a round, flat body, stingrays often hide in the sand on the bottom of the ocean. However, they are very graceful swimmers and move their bodies either in a wave or flapping motion.
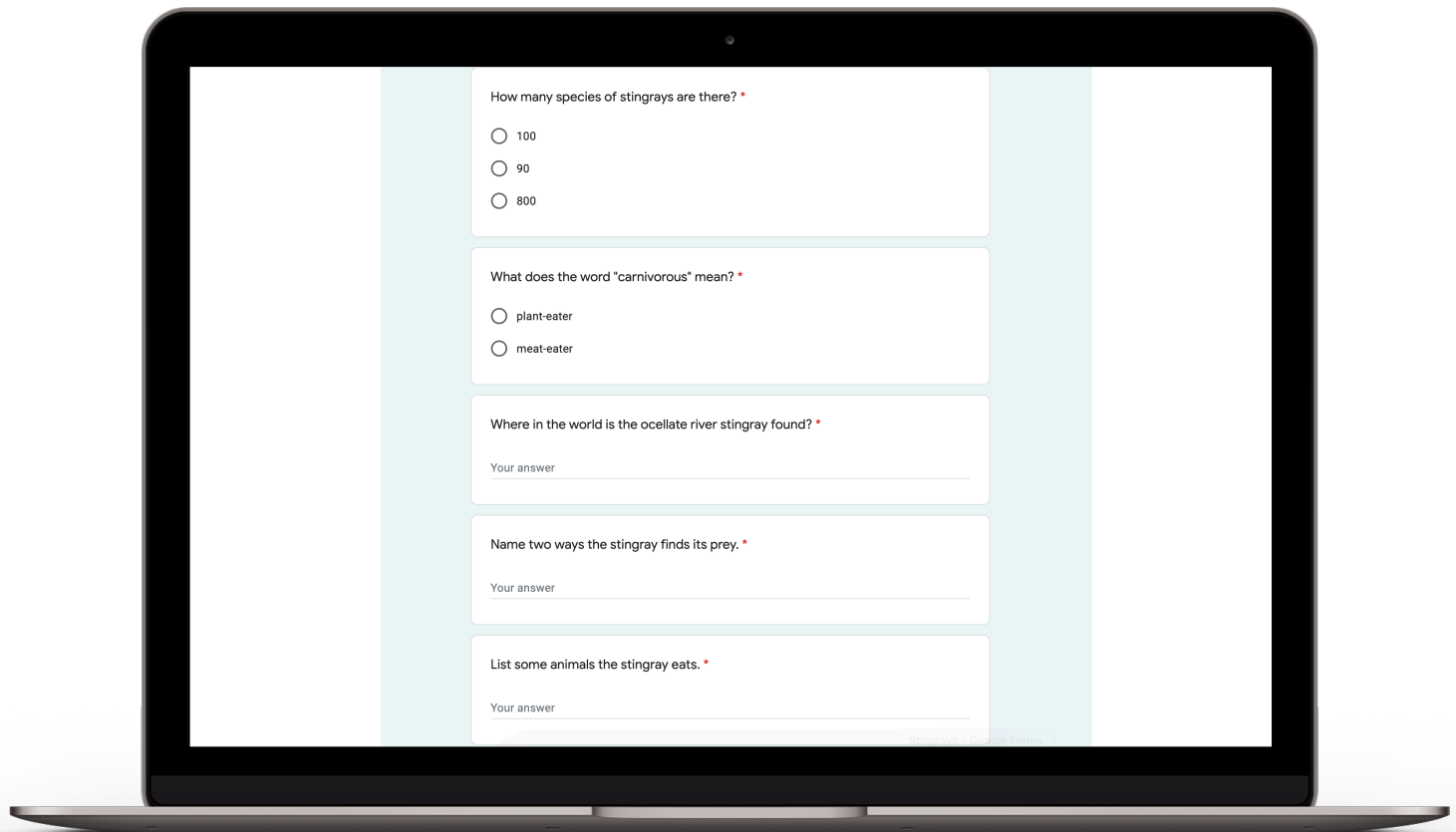
The stingray's mouth is located on the underside of its body. Many species have teeth which they use for crushing their prey. **Carnivorous** creatures, stingrays eat everything from fish to insects, mollusks, clams, and oysters. Because their eyes are on the top of its body, the stingray has to use other senses to find its prey. They find prey using their sense of smell and by sensing the electrical charge of other animals.

There are about 90 species of stingrays in the world, the largest of which can measure up to 6 feet across and weigh up to about 800 pounds. For humans, the most dangerous part of the stingray is its tail. On the end of its

Each informational passage is **high-interest** and designed for a reading in a **short time-frame**. The questions are both **multiple choice** and **open ended**.

READING PASSAGES

JUST ASSIGN IN GOOGLE FORMS AND COLLECT THE ANSWERS ONLINE!

How many species of stingrays are there? *

○ 100

○ 90

○ 800

What does the word "carnivorous" mean? *

○ plant-eater

○ meat-eater

Where in the world is the ocellate river stingray found? *

Your answer

Name two ways the stingray finds its prey. *

Your answer

List some animals the stingray eats. *

Your answer

Each informational passage is **high-interest** and designed for a reading in a **short time-frame**. The questions are both **multiple choice and open ended**.

NO PREP! JUST PRINT AND GO!

BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS

Tiny and colorful, the blue-ringed octopus may even seem cute. However, don't get too close to this ocean creature! Within its small, 10-inch long body, the blue-ringed octopus has enough deadly **venom** to kill up to 26 people.

The blue-ringed octopus lives in shallow ocean waters off the coast of Australia and other islands in the Indo-Pacific. There are plenty of these little octopuses in the waters. It is unlikely you'll see one since they generally stay hidden away in crevices, shells, or amongst rocks. If you do happen to find one, the blue rings will quickly brighten all over its body, warning you to stay away.

Crabs, shrimp, and small fish are the [...] blue-ringed octopus. Typically, the oct[...] prey and bites it using its deadly venom[...] paralyzed, the octopus chows down un[...] skeleton is left.

Usually, blue-ringed octopuses only [...] feel threatened by them. A bite from on[...] can result in a quick death that begins [...] weakness. Then, the venom slowly mo[...] body until the victim can no longer bre[...] antidote for the venom. However, with [...] most bite victims can survive. The bes[...]

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

1. How long is a typical b[...]
   a) 26 inches   b)

2. What is **venom**?
   a) enemy   b)

3. Describe how the octo[...]

BOX JELLYFISH

Think of the most venomous animal you can imagine. Perhaps you're thinking of a spider or a snake. However, the most **toxic** animal on our planet is actually the box jellyfish. This large, soft-bodied creature can kill a full grown man within minutes thanks to its potent venom.

Box jellyfish live just off the coast of Australia and in [...]

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

1. How long can the box jellyfish grow to be?
   a) 10 feet   b) 10 inches   c) 24 inches

2. What does the word **toxic** mean?
   a) dangerous   b) careful   c) poisonous

[...]scribe the coloring of the box jellyfish.

[...]scribe how the box jellyfish kills its prey.

THE GREAT BARRACUDA

A long, sleek, silver fish darts through the shallow water, grabbing a smaller fish to eat. It's a great barracuda, one of the ocean's scariest looking fish. These amazing fish are known for their size, speed, and hunting skills which make them great **predators** in the ocean.

The great barracuda can be found in tropical waters around the world. Reaching lengths of up to a maximum of ten feet, most are closer to about five feet in length. It's not unusual for the fish to weigh 100 pounds. This fish has silvery or bluish coloring and dark black spots on the sides of its body.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

1. What is a normal weight of a barracuda?
   a) 100 pounds   b) 35 pounds   c) 10 pounds

STINGRAYS

One of the oldest ocean creatures is the stingray. Having patrolled the ocean's waters for 100 million years, this graceful ocean creature is also dangerous.

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[...] located on the underside of its [...]eeth which they use for [...]**vorous** creatures, stingrays eat [...]ects, mollusks, clams, and [...]s are on the top of its body, the [...]nses to find its prey. They find [...]mell and by sensing the [...]animals.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

1. How many species of stingrays are there?
   a) 100   b) 90   c) 800

2. What does the word **carnivorous** mean?
   a) plant-eater   b) meat-eater

3. Where in the world is the ocellate river stingray found?
   _____

4. Name two ways the stingray finds its prey.
   _____
   _____

5. List some animals the stingray eats.
   _____

6. What is the purpose of this passage?
   a) to inform   b) to entertain   c) to persuade

[...]scribe three physical characteristics of the stingray.
   _____
   _____

8. What is the most dangerous part of the stingray for humans?
   _____

9. The stingray's eyes are on the bottom of its body.
   True or False? _____

THE STONEFISH

Looking down, a swimmer notices a lumpy piece of coral sitting on the ocean floor. However, it's not coral. It's a camouflaged venomous fish. Noticing the swimmer, the fish erects its 13 sharp dorsal spines, ready to release a **lethal** venom should the swimmer come any closer. Luckily, the swimmer moves on to another area, not realizing they've come very close to meeting a stonefish.

The stonefish is the world's most venomous fish. Its sting is not usually deadly, but it can cause extreme pain and other problems. Victims who've been stung by the fish should seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Stonefish are found in the coastal waters of Northern Australia and other areas of the Indo-Pacific Ocean, mostly where reefs are present. They are usually brown in color with markings that make them look just like rocks or coral. Some of the fish may feature yellow, red, or orange patches. Typically, the fish spend most of their time hiding on the ocean floor. When prey comes by, the fish darts forward to capture their meal of fish [...] small crabs.

Surprisingly, this venomous fish [...] They include sharks and stingrays. [...] found stonefish bones in the stomac[...] Moray eels have also been known to e[...]

Stonefish are impressive predators and excellent hiders. Thanks to their venomous spines, most animals know to stay away from this scary ocean creature.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

1. How many dorsal spines does the stonefish have?
   a) 10   b) 6   c) 13

2. What does the word **lethal** mean?
   a) liquid   b) colorful   c) deadly

3. Describe the diet of most stonefish.
   _____

4. Where in the world are stonefish found?
   _____

5. Describe the appearance of the stonefish.
   _____
   _____

6. What is th[...]
   _____

[...] you do if you are stung by this fish?

9. The stonefish is the world's most venomous fish.
   True or False? _____

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ANSWER KEYS INCLUDED!