

SPRING FUN FACTS

SCAVENGER HUNT

1 Spring begins on the spring equinox, also known as the vernal equinox, and usually falls around March 21st. On this day, the day and night are almost exactly the same length with 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. This marks the official start of the season, where temperatures begin to rise. The exact time of the spring equinox depends on your location. In 2022, spring officially began at 11:33 AM in the Eastern time zone but started at 8:33 AM in the Pacific time zone.

Many animals return from _____ or wake up from hibernation.

CODE WORD

3 Spring has a lot to do with the tilt of the Earth's axis. The Earth is tilted on its axis by about 23.5 degrees, and as the Earth orbits the sun, different parts of the planet receive more sunlight at different times of the year. In spring, the Northern Hemisphere starts to tilt toward the sun, which causes the weather to warm up and days to get longer. While spring starts in March in the Northern Hemisphere, the Southern Hemisphere experiences spring from September to November.

What is the birth flower of the month of April?

CODE WORD

2 As the days get longer, the weather that changes with the amount of sunlight, which can affect our mood. Exercise and outdoor activities produce endorphins, which are good for strong bones and a healthy heart. Sunlight also helps produce serotonin, a hormone that helps regulate sleep and mood.

THINK TANK

ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words.

CLUE #	ANSWER
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Several colored markers (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) are placed over the answer sheet grid.

- ☒ 10 SHORT PASSAGES
- ☒ 10 QUESTION TRAILS
- ☒ RECORDING SHEET
- ☒ ANSWER KEY
- ☒ STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- ☒ TEACHER DIRECTIONS
- ☒ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

10 In Japan, the Hanami festival celebrates the blooming of cherry blossoms.

10 READING CARDS

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wake up from hiberna

2 As the days get longer, it's not just the weather that changes. Longer days mean more sunlight, which can have a positive effect on our mood. Exposure to sunlight helps our bodies produce vitamin D, which is important for strong bones and a healthy immune system.

7 Many animals return from hibernation and wake up from hibernation. Birds like swallows, migrate north as the weather warms. Some animals, such as bears, get up from hibernation. Spring is also a time when many animals return to their young. Insects, like bees, and kittens

was the Greek
ess of agriculture?

8 Insects like bees and butterflies are more active in spring, helping to pollinate flowers. However, for many people, spring also marks the peak allergy season. Flowers, trees, and grasses release pollen into the air that can cause sneezing, runny noses, and itchy eyes for those who are allergic.

---- Day (April 22nd) is a day dedicated to protecting the planet.

3 Spring has a lot to do with the tilt of the Earth's axis. The Earth is tilted by about 23.5 degrees. As the Earth orbits the sun, different parts of the planet receive more or less sunlight at different times of the year. In spring, the Northern Hemisphere starts to tilt toward the sun, which causes the weather to warm up and days to get longer. While spring starts in March in the Northern Hemisphere, the Southern Hemisphere experiences spring from September to November.

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4 The spring equinox has been celebrated for thousands of years. In Mexico, the Mayans were known for their sophisticated understanding of astronomy. At the El Castillo pyramid at Chichen Itza, the shadows cast by the setting sun during the spring equinox create the illusion of a serpent slithering down the steps of the pyramid.

Spring has a lot to do with the tilt of the Earth's ____.

10 In Japan, the Hanami festival celebrates blooming of cherry blossoms. In India celebrated with people throwing colored each other. Also known as the Festival of Colors, Holi marks the arrival of spring and the good over evil. The Nowruz festival celebrates the Persian New Year, occurs at the spring equinox. In China, the spring equinox is the Chunfen. The Chinese believed that at the equinox, there was a perfect balance (female, passive) and yang (male, active).

In what country is the El Castillo pyramid?

5 In ancient Greece, the spring equinox was associated with the myth of Persephone. According to mythology, Persephone, the daughter of Demeter (goddess of agriculture), was taken to the underworld by Hades, causing winter to fall on Earth. Spring represented her return.

In what country is the spring equinox known as Chunfen?

**CODE
WORD**

There are over 300,000 species of flowering plants known to exist. Some of the most well-known spring flowers include tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and cherry blossoms. The daisy is the birth flower of the month of April, while the lily of the

ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words.

FOUND
CARD #

[illegible]

FINAL WORD ANSWER

4 DIGIT CODE

Next, use the number in the FID column in the SAME color in which you recorded the name above. Follow these clues:



Eliminate the highest number in the FOUN column

Get... of a... mber... that
sp... d w... ust... nter...

Eliminate the numbers that are not in the list.

FINAL ORDER
What 4 numbers are in the order you are in?

CITE EVIDENCE

ANSWER SHEET the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words. FOUND CARD #

1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

FINAL WORD ANSWER:

4 DIGIT CODE Next, using the numbers in the FOUND column in the same order in which you recorded them above; follow these clues.

Eliminate the highest and lowest number in the FOUND column.

Get rid of all numbers that are spelled with just letters.

Eliminate numbers that start with the letter...

FINAL CODE What 4 numbers remain (in the order you listed them)?

1. STUDENTS WILL RECORD THEIR CODE WORDS

2. STUDENTS WILL RECORD **WHERE** THEY FOUND THE ANSWER

3. STUDENTS WILL UNSCRAMBLE A MYSTERY WORD

4. STUDENTS WILL FOLLOW CLUES TO REVEAL THE 4-DIGIT CODE

HOW IT WORKS



ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!



1

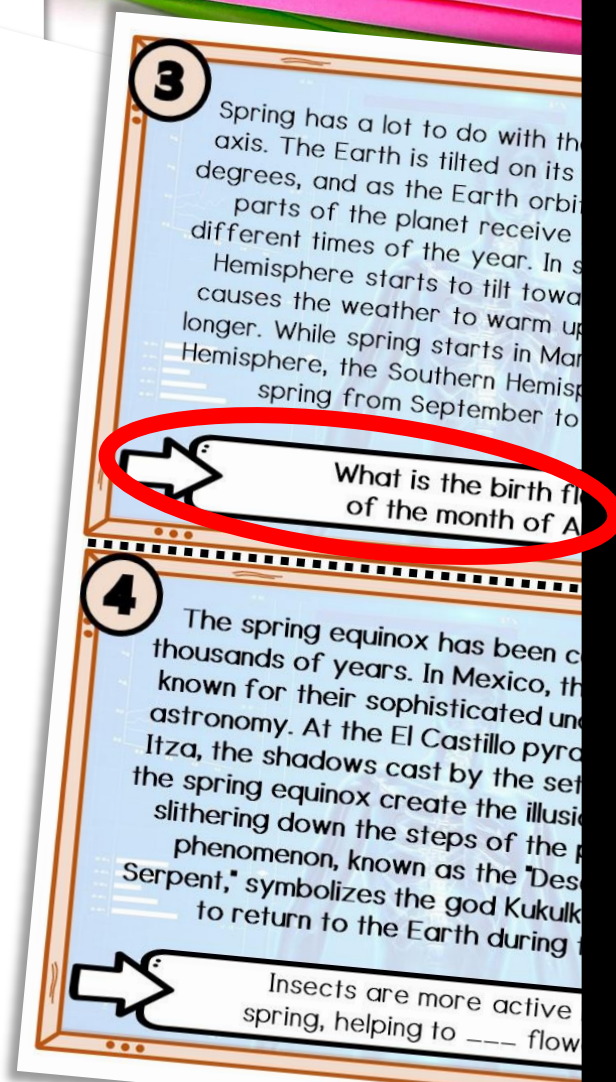
Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit 10 reading cards scattered around the room.

2

Students read the passage and look at the question at the bottom labeled "code word".

3

The code word for THAT card number will lead them to a different card. But here's the catch... students will NOT know where to find the code word answer so they will have to skim, browse and revisit the reading cards several times to find the answer they are seeking.



COMBINATION



This scavenger hunt is a winning combination of:

- ☒ **movement**
- ☒ **close reading**
- ☒ **comprehension skills**
- ☒ **mystery words & codes**
- ☒ **citing evidence**
- ☒ **critical thinking**

Everything a teacher dreams of wrapped up into one FUN and engaging activity!

OPTIONS



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!



- ✎ ANTICIPATORY SETS
- ✎ EARLY FINISHERS
- ✎ STATIONS
- ✎ SUB PLANS
- ✎ PARTNER WORK
- ✎ ENRICHMENT

- ✎ MOVEMENT
- ✎ CROSS-CURRICULAR
- ✎ HIGHLY ENGAGING

