This mini pack features 6 biome-themed student pages plus answer keys.
• Mountains
• Deserts
• Rainforest
• Rivers
• Ocean
• Caves

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I ❤️ LITERACY

I ❤️ Literacy is a challenging, quick, and fun way to reinforce ELA and reading skills. Each page features a different theme, so not only will your students be practicing skills, they will also be learning about curriculum-based, high-interest topics. Each page has its own unique design, so students will never get bored seeing the same old thing over and over. While each page is different, they do have some elements in common.

Each page features:

• 6 standards-based ELA/Reading activities, each in its own space. Activities are numbered for easy reference.

• An open-ended bonus activity, marked by a star, at the bottom of the page to be completed on the backside. Perfect for fast finishers, as homework, or extra credit.

• A short reading passage with one or two text-dependent questions. Most of the passages are informational text (written by a published author of over 100 nonfiction books for children), but a few are fictional - just to shake things up. The questions are more closely aligned to close reading than simple comprehension.

• A theme-based joke or fun fact (joke answers can be found upside down in the bottom right hand corner).

• A list of the skills addressed at the bottom (indicated by a picture of a nail - which stands for “nailed it!”)

• A picture of a whale in the upper right corner simply because it is so adorable.
MOUNTAINS

Mammals in the Mountains
Mammals that live in mountain habitats have thick fur to protect them from the cold. Many mountain mammals, such as yaks and marmots, have dark fur. Dark colors absorb more light from the sun, which helps to keep them warm. Some animals, like mountain goats and snowshoe hares, have white fur. While they do not stay as warm as animals with dark fur, the white fur helps them to blend in with the snow to stay safe from predators.

Why do some mountain mammals have white fur?
________________________________________
________________________________________

What is a disadvantage of having white fur?
________________________________________
________________________________________

Fun Fact: The youngest person to make it to the top of Mount Everest was Jordon Romero, who did it at age 13!

Rewrite this sentence to make it better by adding two adjectives and an adverb.

The girls climbed the mountain.
________________________________________
________________________________________

Which sentence written correctly?
a) Mount St. Helens is a Volcano in southwest Washington.
b) Mount St. Helens is a volcano in southwest Washington.
c) Mount St. Helens is a Volcano in southwest Washington.
d) Mount St. Helens is a volcano in southwest Washington.

Fill each blank with the correct contraction.

I _______ want to meet a mountain lion.

She has _______ climbed this mountain three times.

They _______ make it to the summit.

Use the words to fill in the blanks.
tall taller tallest

Mount Everest is very _______. It is the _______ mountain in the world. It is _______ than all the other mountains.

On the back of this paper, write about a time when you or someone you know made a mountain out of a molehill.

Comparative and superlative adjectives, reading for details, contractions, capitalization, figurative language (idiom), better sentences.
1. The Sahara Desert

The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert on our planet. It covers ten percent of the continent of Africa and is nearly as big as the United States. You can walk for hundreds of miles in the Sahara and see nothing but sand dunes.

Paraphrase this paragraph:

Meerkats live in the Kalahari Desert in Africa. They live in large __________. A group of meerkats is called a mob or a gang.

Meerkats dig large __________ with many tunnels and __________.

While a mob of __________ is eating, one of them stands guard.

The guard stands up on its back __________ and looks for predators, such as eagles and __________. If the guard sees a predator, it whistles loudly. When the other meerkats hear the whistle, they jump into a nearby burrow.

3. Add the _-er suffix to make new adjectives:

hot __________
dry __________

4. Write F if the statement is a fact. Write O if it is an opinion.

____ Meerkats are cute!

____ There are deserts in Africa.

____ People should not live in the desert.

____ It is very dry in a desert.

____ Deserts are beautiful at sunset.

5. Circle the correct homophone for each blank.

Deserts get less ____ ten inches (25 cm) of rain a year. then than

A female roadrunner may build ____ nest in a cactus. its it's

Bring a lot of water if ____ going to hike in the desert. your you're

6. Underline all of the proper nouns on this page.

Paraphrasing, plural nouns, fact and opinion, suffixes, commonly confused homophones, proper nouns.
The Tropical Rainforest

Tropical rainforests are warm, humid, and teeming with plant and animal life. Although rainforests only cover about 2% of the planet’s surface, about half of the Earth’s plants and animal species live there. Four square miles (10.4 km) of rainforest will contain about:

- 1,500 species of flowering plants
- 75 species of trees
- 125 species of mammals
- 400 species of birds
- 100 species of reptiles
- 60 species of amphibians
- 150 species of butterflies along with thousands of other insect species.

Why do you think the author chose to use bullet points for the second part of the passage?

Fun Fact: The Amazon Rainforest in South America is the largest in the world. It covers 5 ½ million square kilometers!

Which of these is not true about the word rainforest?

a) It is a compound word.
b) It would come after the word railroad in the dictionary.
c) It has three syllables.
d) It is a proper noun.

Write have or has in each blank.

She ________ seen the monkey.
The toucans ________ big beaks.
Those snakes ________ fangs.
The rainforest ________ a lot of bugs.

Draw a picture of what these onomatopoeias describe:

slither slide hiss

Add the suffix -less or -ful to the base words in the box and use the new words to complete the sentences.

- harm - motion - help - plenty

Many rainforest plants are ________ for treating illnesses.

Tarantulas look scary, but are ________ to humans.

Insects are ________ on the forest floor of a rainforest.

The crocodile lay ________ waiting for its prey to approach.

On the back of this page, use the word RAINFOREST to make as many small words as you can.

Synonyms, text feature/author’s style, word work, subject-verb agreement, figurative language/inference, suffixes.
A River is Born

Most rivers begin high in the mountains. Water from melting snow and falling rain runs down the slope, following natural cracks and crevices in the land. These small streams join together, growing larger until they become a river. Over many years, the flowing water shapes the land, creating ravines, valleys, and canyons. Rivers flow faster in the mountains because the land is steeper. As the land flattens out, the current slows down and the river gets wider. A river can empty into another river, a lake, or the ocean.

Which text structure was used to write this passage?

a) compare and contrast  b) problem/solution  c) description  d) sequence  e) cause and effect

How do you know?

1 Circle the plural nouns in each sentence:
Most of the world's big cities are located near rivers.
People and beavers build dams across rivers.

2 A _______________ brook runs through the forest.

3 The boys ____________ happily in the stream.

4 The stream ____________ down the hill.

5 Fill in the blanks with the onomatopoeias to complete the sentences.

A ____________ brook runs through the forest.

The boys ____________ happily in the stream.

The stream ____________ down the hill.

Find an example of alliteration in one of the sentences:

6 Add a coordinating conjunction to make these two simple sentences into one compound sentence.

The Nile is the longest river. The Amazon carries more water.

7 Pretend that you are sitting by a stream. On the other side of this paper, make a list of all the things that you might see.

Plural nouns, text structure, adjectives, vocabulary/synonyms, figurative language, sentence structure.
OCEAN

Joke: How do shellfish get to the hospital?

1. Add a predicate to each of these subjects:
   a) The hungry shark _______________________
   b) A baby sea turtle _______________________
   c) All of those sea horses ___________________
   d) The injured octopus _____________________

2. Draw lines to match each sentence to the correct tense.
   a) The fish swam away. past
   b) The fish will swim away present
   c) The fish is swimming away future

3. Use the words in the fish to make 6 compound words.
   - sea
   - ray
   - under
   - wreck
   - boat
   - sting
   - ship
   - weed
   - jelly
   - sail
   - fish
   - water

4. Write the correct homophone in the blank.
   Those fish have spots on their _______. tails/tales
   We saw a _______ of dolphins near our boat. pear/pair
   I _______ not want to swim in the Arctic Ocean. would/wood

5. Deep Down in the Ocean
   The Mariana trench is the deepest part of the ocean biome. It is more than 36,000 (10,873 m) feet deep, which is about 7,000 (2,134 m) feet deeper than Mt. Everest is tall! It is very cold in the trench. There is no light and a great deal of pressure from the weight of the water above. Very few animals are able to live there. Humans have only been to the bottom of the trench two times. Once in 1960 and then again in 2012.

   Why do you think humans have only been to the bottom of the Mariana Trench twice? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

6. What does the word root sub mean?
   - submarine
   - submerge
   - subway
   a) under
   b) over
   c) inside
   d) water

   What does the word root mari mean?
   - submarine
   - aquamarine
   - marina
   a) under
   b) boat
   c) sea
   d) blue

☆ On the back of this paper list every creature you can think of that lives in the ocean.
**CAVES**

Fun Fact: A person who studies caves is called a speleologist.

1. Draw lines to match each book title to its genre
   - Dakota Smith and the Cavern of Doom: fable
   - Stephen Bishop: Cave Explorer: travel
   - The Bear and the Bat: adventure
   - Plan your Trip to Mammoth Cave: fantasy
   - The Unicorn and the Enchanted Cave: biography

2. Circle the helping verb and underline the action verb in each sentence.
   - The bats are hanging from the cave ceiling.
   - The hikers will explore the cave tomorrow.
   - Our flashlights might run out of batteries.

3. Change one letter in the word "cave" to solve each clue:
   - A curved stick _________
   - Past tense of give _________
   - A small bay _________
   - Motion goodbye _________
   - A restaurant _________

4. Living in the Dark
   Some animals spend their whole lives deep inside a cave where it is completely dark. They are born in a cave and they never leave it. These animals are called troglobites. Troglobites are all blind and some of them don’t even have eyes. The smallest troglobites are insects, spiders, crustaceans, and flatworms. They become food for bigger troglobites such as cave fish and blind salamanders. There are no types of birds or mammals that are troglobites.

   What is the main idea of this passage?

5. Add the suffix -ness to make new words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>-ness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dark</td>
<td>ness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black</td>
<td>ness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>damp</td>
<td>ness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cold</td>
<td>ness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Add a coordinating conjunction to make these two simple sentences into one compound sentence
   - It was dark in the cave. We had flashlights.

   ____________________________

*On the back of this paper, write a short story that takes place in a cave. Illustrate your story.*

Genre, helping verbs, word work, main idea, suffixes, sentence structure.
MOUNTAINS

① tall, tallest, taller
② Some mountain mammals have white fur in order to blend in with the snow to stay safe from predators. The disadvantage of having white fur is that it does not absorb much light from the sun, so it does not keep the animal as warm as dark fur would.
③ wouldn’t, she’s, won’t.
④ d - Mount St. Helens is a volcano in southwest Washington.
⑤ To make a small issue or problem into a big deal.
⑥ Answers will vary - sample
  The tired girls bravely climbed the snowy mountain.

RAINFOREST

① moist, soaked, dewy damp, drenched, soggy.
② The author chose to use bullet points because it would have been confusing to put all of those numbers in a paragraph. Putting them in a bulleted list made the information easy to read and understand.
③ d. It is a proper noun.
④ has, have, have, has
⑤ Student should draw a snake.
⑥ helpful, harmless, plentiful, motionless

DESERTS

① Answers will vary - sample:
  The largest desert on Earth is the Sahara Desert. It is so big that a person can walk hundreds of miles and only see sand dunes. Ten percent of Africa is covered by the Sahara, which means it is only a little smaller than the United States.
② groups, burrows, rooms, meerkats, legs, jackals.
③ drier, drier (note: drier is an adjective, while dryer is a noun).
④ O, F, O, F, O
⑤ than, its, you’re.
⑥ Sahara Desert, Africa (several times), United States, Sahara, Kalahari Desert, Rachel Lynette, Student name, month (if written on date line, student answers)

RIVERS

① cities, rivers
  People, beavers, dams, rivers
② d - sequence
  The passage is written in sequence because it starts by telling how a river begins. Then it tells how small streams come together to make the river and how rivers shape canyons, ravines, and valleys. Finally, it tells where a river ends.
③ Answers will vary - samples: wet, wild, rough, meandering, slow, fast, loud, big, thundering, rushing, flowing, gentle, quiet, lazy, dangerous, deep, shallow, long, wide, muddy, sparkling, polluted.
④ a - geyser
⑤ babbling, splash, trickled
  alliteration: babbling brook
⑥ The Nile is the longest river, but the Amazon carries more water.
OCEAN

1. Answers will vary - samples:
   - The hungry shark charged into the school of fish.
   - The baby sea turtle swam through the seaweed.
   - All of those seahorses are swimming together.
   - The injured octopus hid in a crevice in the rocks.

2. The fish swam away. - past
   - The fish will swim away. - future
   - The fish is swimming away. - present

3. seaweed, stingray, jellyfish, underwater, shipwreck, sailboat.

4. tails, pair, would.

5. I think humans have only been to the bottom of the Mariana Trench twice because it is probably expensive and difficult to make the trip. The submarine would have to be able to withstand all the pressure and cold. Also, there might not be much to see down there.

6. a. under  c. sea

CAVES

1. Dakota Smith and the Cavern of Doom - adventure
   - Stephen Bishop: Cave Explorer - biography
   - The Bear and the Bat - fable
   - Plan Your Trip to Mammoth Cave - travel
   - The Unicorn and the Enchanted Cave - fantasy

2. are hanging
   - will explore
   - might run out

3. cane, gave, cove, wave, café.

4. Troglobites are animals that spend their entire lives in a cave.

5. darkness, blackness, dampness, coldness

6. It was dark in the cave, but we had flashlights.