

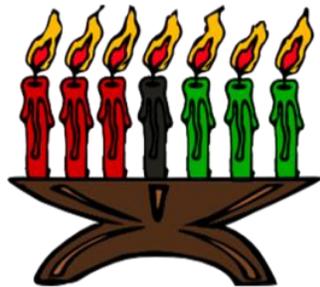
Grades 3-6

20 paragraph task cards for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

Summarize It!

Task Cards

Winter
Holidays
Edition!



- ✓ Aligned with CCSS RI.4.2 and RI.5.2
- ✓ Perfect for literacy centers
- ✓ Includes Answer Key and Challenge Cards

by
Rachel
Lynette



Summarize It! Winter Holiday Task Cards

This set of summarizing task cards includes ten cards for Christmas, five for Hanukkah, and five for Kwanzaa. The cards are about cultural traditions and practices so they will work in a public school setting. The first ten cards are informational text (nonfiction) while the last ten are fictional. A two-page student answer sheet is provided. Print it double-sided, or just use one or the other if you want to focus on either informational or fiction text. There is also a suggested answer key.

The card challenge students to summarize the paragraph in just 12 words or less. By presenting only one paragraph at a time, the often overwhelming task of summarizing becomes much more manageable. In addition, the word count limit will keep students from simply rewriting the entire paragraph. You may want to remind students that they must answer with a complete sentence (the challenge was issued as a word count instead as limiting to one sentence to avoid long, run-on sentences as answers). You may want to allow 15 words for students who are struggling with 12.

Because summarizing is such a difficult skill, I have included a SUM reminder card. There is also a cover card and two Challenge Cards to extend the learning. Just print, cut along the guidelines, laminate and you are set to go!

This resource addresses:

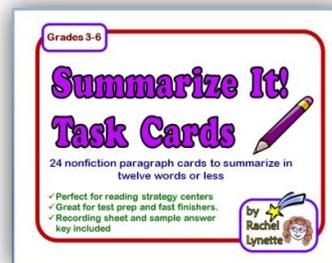
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2](#)

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2](#)

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2](#)

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2](#)

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Task Cards? [Get them here](#)



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Task Cards in your class?
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Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

1

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer may look young, but he is actually over 70 years old! The original story was written in 1939 by Robert L. May. The story was made into a song ten years later in 1949. In 1964, Rudolph starred in an animated, stop-motion TV special that is still popular today.

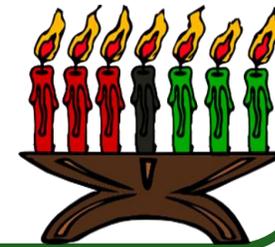


Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

2

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by African American scholar and activist, Maulana Karenga. The word Kwanzaa comes from a Swahili phrase meaning, "first fruits of the harvest." Kwanzaa celebrates African American culture and history.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

3

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday which lasts for eight days. Each evening, families light candles on a candleholder called a menorah. Often people play a game with a four-sided top called a dreidel. Children usually receive gifts, one for each of the eight days of Hanukkah



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

4

In many countries, it is a tradition to give fruit cake as a gift at Christmas time. In the United States, people often joke that no one actually likes fruit cake. People say that a fruit cake is so heavy it makes a better door stop or paperweight than a dessert!



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

5

People started decorating fir trees at Christmastime in the 1500s in Germany. They used apples, roses, candies, and colored paper as decorations. About a hundred years later, some people started using small candles to light their trees. They glued the candles to the branches using melted wax.

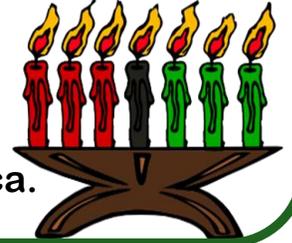


Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

6

The candle holder that is used for Kwanzaa is called a Kinara. It holds seven candles in three different colors. The black candle in the middle represents the African American people. The red candles represent the blood that has been shed. The green candles represent hope and the motherland of Africa.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

7

People often eat latkes on Hanukkah. Latkes are potato pancakes that are fried in oil. They are often eaten with sour cream or applesauce. Another special Hanukkah food is sufganiyot, which is a jelly-filled doughnut.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

8

Candy canes first appeared in Europe in the 1600s. They were meant to resemble a shepherd's hook and were given to children during ceremonies to keep them quiet. It was not until the mid 1800s that candy canes were used to decorate Christmas trees.



Summarize It!

Summarize this passage in twelve words or less.

9

Each year at Christmastime, many children see the Nutcracker Suite Ballet. The ballet features colorful costumes and lively dances. The story is about a young girl who travels to the magical Land of Sweets with a nutcracker who has turned into a handsome prince.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

10

Kwanzaa lasts for seven days, from December 26 through January 1st. Each day is dedicated to a different Kwanzaa principles. Some of the principles include, unity, self-determination, creativity, and faith. Parents plan activities to help their children learn about each of the seven principles.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

11

Becca was playing dreidel with her friends at the Hanukkah party. She was not doing very well. In fact, she only had two chocolate coins left. Then, on her next turn, the dreidel landed on Gimel. That meant she got to take all of the coins from the middle! There were over 20 chocolate coins!



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

12

On Christmas Eve, Jason and his sister Talia left a plate of cookies and a note on for Santa. The next morning, all that was left on the plate were a few crumbs. There was also a new note!
It said:

*Merry Christmas,
Jason and Talia. I hope you
like the presents!
Love, Santa.*



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

13

Dad started decorating for Christmas the day after Thanksgiving. He hung dozens of strands of lights. He put a Santa in his sled and all of his reindeer on the roof. In the front yard he set up ten gingerbread men, a row of candy canes, and a giant snowman!

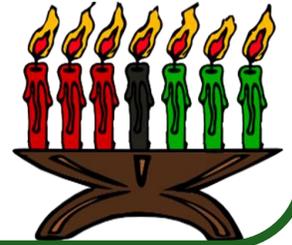


Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

14

It was the last day of Kwanzaa and Cassie was helping her grandma make sweet potato pie. Soon her aunts, uncles, and cousins would arrive. There would be a feast with lots of yummy foods. Then there would be drumming and dancing.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

15

Jacob wanted to make some Hanukkah decorations for his grandma's house. He cut out a big, blue triangle from construction paper. Then he cut out another one from yellow construction paper and glued them together to make a Star of David.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

16

Ana's family was almost finished trimming the Christmas tree. It looked beautiful, but there was still one more thing to do. Ana's father lifted her up high, almost over his head, and Ana put the big, silver star on the very top of the tree. Then mom plugged in the lights and they all stood back to admire the sparkling tree.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

17

Kelsey and her mom were making Christmas cookies. First they mixed up the dough and then they rolled it out on the table. Next, they used cookie cutters to make stars, trees, stockings, and bells. Later, after the cookies were baked and cooled, Kelsey would get to decorate them.

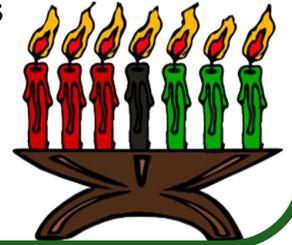


Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

18

In Isaiah's family, everyone exchanged small, handmade gifts for Kwanzaa. Isaiah had been working on his gifts for weeks. He made a beaded necklace for his mother, a woven belt for his father, and a Mancala game for his little sister. He was especially excited to teach his sister how to play Mancala.



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

19

Rachel was the only Jewish kid in her class. Her teacher had asked her to tell the class about Hanukkah. Rachel brought her family's menorah and enough dreidels for everyone to play. She was nervous at first, but her classmates were really interested and they all had fun playing dreidel!



Summarize It!

Summarize this paragraph in twelve words or less.

20

There was only one gift left under the Christmas tree. It was only a small box, so Tyler knew it could not be the bicycle he was hoping for. Tyler opened the box and found a note instead of a present. The note said that he should look out the window. Tyler ran to the window. There on the front porch was a brand new red bicycle!



Summarize It! Task Cards for Winter Holidays



Summarize It! Challenge Card 1

What does the paragraph on the card remind you of from your own life?



SUMmarize It!

Shorter than the text

Use your own words

Main ideas only

Summarize It! Challenge Card 2

What questions could you ask about the paragraph on the card?



Name _____

Summarize It!

Answer Sheet Cards 1-10

Use this sheet to record your summaries. Put the number of words you used in the bubble at the end of each line. Remember, your summary must be twelve words or less!

1.	<input type="text"/>
2.	<input type="text"/>
3.	<input type="text"/>
4.	<input type="text"/>
5.	<input type="text"/>
6.	<input type="text"/>
7.	<input type="text"/>
8.	<input type="text"/>
9.	<input type="text"/>
10.	<input type="text"/>

Summarize It!

Answer Sheet Cards 11-20

Use this sheet to record your summaries. Put the number of words you used in the bubble at the end of each line. Remember, your summary must be twelve words or less!

11.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
12.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
13.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
14.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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17.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
18.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
19.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
20.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Summarize It! Answer Key for Cards 1-10

Here are some example summaries. Yours may be different.

1. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created over 70 years ago.
2. Kwanzaa was created in 1966 and celebrates African American culture and history.
3. People light candles, play dreidel, and give gifts during Hanukkah.
4. Fruitcake is a traditional Christmas gift, but many people don't like it.
5. People began decorating Christmas trees in Germany with small items like candy.
6. A Kinara holds black, red, and green candles for Kwanzaa.
7. People eat potato pancakes called latkes and jelly doughnuts on Hanukkah.
8. Candy canes were invented in Europe to keep children quiet during ceremonies.
9. The Nutcracker Suite is a lively and colorful ballet that children like.
10. Parents teach their children about the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Summarize It! Answer Key for Cards 1-10

Here are some example summaries. Yours may be different.

11. Becca was playing dreidel and losing until she got a gimel.

12. Santa ate the cookies that Jason and his sister left for him.

13. Dad used a lot of Christmas decorations for his house and yard.

14. Cassie helped her grandma make food for the big Kwanzaa feast.

15. Jacob made a Star of David with two paper triangles.

16. Ana's father helped her put the star on the tree.

17. Kelsey and her mom mixed, rolled, cut, baked, and decorated Christmas cookies.

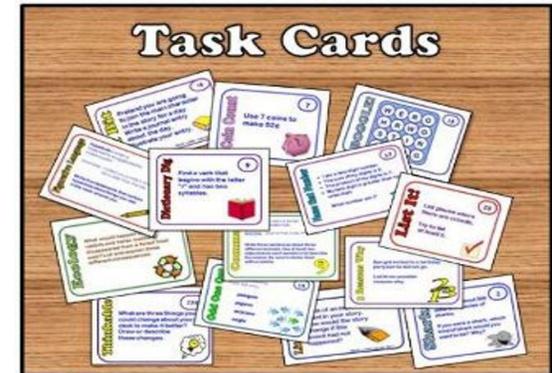
18. Isaiah made special gifts for everyone in his family for Kwanzaa

19. Rachel taught her classmates about Hanukkah.

20. Tyler was surprised that he got a bike for Christmas.

Thank you so much for downloading this product! You can get more Task Cards for a variety of subjects here: <http://bit.ly/sZYtu1>

You may also want to check out:



Grades 3-6

Summarize It! Task Cards

24 nonfiction paragraph cards to summarize in twelve words or less

- ✓ Perfect for reading strategy centers
- ✓ Great for test prep and fast finishers.
- ✓ Recording sheet and sample answer key included

by Rachel Lynette

Grades 2-5

Nonfiction Text Features Task Cards

24 cards to help your students use nonfiction resources more effectively

- ✓ 18 different text features
- ✓ Definitions and examples on each card
- ✓ Addresses CCSS: RI 3.5, 3.7, and 4.7

by Rachel Lynette

Grades 3-6

Main Idea Task Cards

48 informational text (nonfiction) paragraph cards presented with and without topic sentences for differentiated learning.

- ✓ Correlated with Common Core Standard RI-2.
- ✓ Answer sheets and answer keys included
- ✓ Student response can be short answer or multiple choice.

by Rachel Lynette

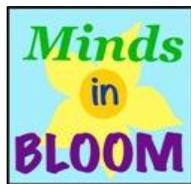
Grades 4-6

Informational Text Structures Task Cards

32 short paragraph cards in a multiple choice format.

- ✓ Aligned with Common Core Standard RI.5
- ✓ Great for test prep and fast finishers
- ✓ Recording sheet and answer key included

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