RESEARCH-BASED VOCABULARY SCAFFOLDING!

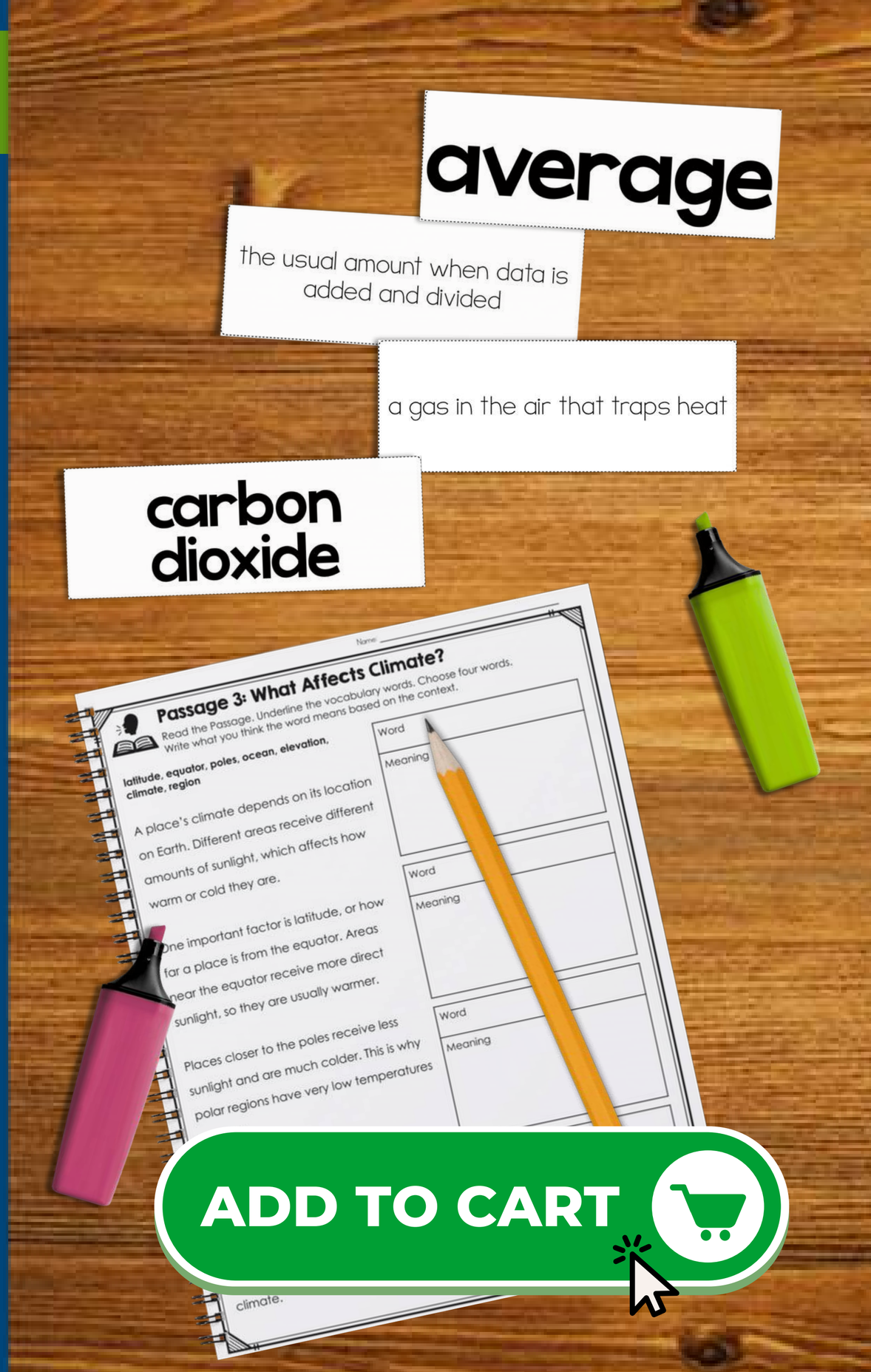
3RD GRADE

CLIMATE VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Vocabulary Cards
- Matching & Sorting Activities
- Frayer Models
- Reading & Context
- Application & Thinking
- Quiz-Quiz-Trade Activity



VOCABULARY CARDS



the usual weathe
in a place over
long time



climate



climate
change

when the climate
changes over a
long period of
time

carbon
dioxide



gas in the air that traps heat

average

the usual amount when data is
added and divided

MATCHING & SORTING ACTIVITIES

WEATHER SCOOT

WORD + DEFINITION

CONCEPT SORTS

EXAMPLE / NON-EXAMPLE

TRUE / FALSE

Name: _____

Climate Scoot

Read the definition on the card. Look at the word list and determine the word that fits best. Write it in the space for that number.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	
13	14	15	
17	18	19	
21	22	23	

average
carbon dioxide
climate
climate change
climate zone
coastline
daily
data
desert
drought

Name: _____

Climate Concepts

Cut out the vocabulary words. Read each definition and match it to the correct word. Glue the words next to the correct definitions.

	the usual amount when data is added and divided
	the usual
	a pattern
	happen
	a
	somethin
	happening
	happ

climate
pattern
yearly
trend

Name: _____

True or False Sort: Weather Vocabulary

Cut out the cards below. Read each statement and decide if it is true or false. Sort each card into the correct category. If a statement is false, be ready to explain what is incorrect.

TRUE	FALSE

Name: _____

Concept Sort 2: Measurement vs. Description

Cut out the words below. Sort them into the two categories.

Measurement	Description

nd write one sentence showing the relationship of the words.

y. Write the word and definition below.

Name: _____

Example or Non-Example Sort: Climate Vocabulary

Cut out the cards. Read each situation and decide if it is an example or non-example of the vocabulary word. Sort each card into the correct column.

Tropical Climate

Example	Non-Example

humid air
tropical rainforest
freezing temperatures
snow-covered land
warm temperatures all year
little rainfall

Non-Example

very dry conditions
thick forests
frequent snow
hot temperatures during the day
little rainfall
heavy rainfall

Non-Example

little plant life
lots of rain
very cold temperatures
hot weather
thick forests
snow and ice

snowfall
dry

True or False Sort: Climate Vocabulary

Climate is the weather on one day.	A desert climate is very dry and gets little rain.
Tropical climates are cold and snowy all year.	Weather and climate are different because climate is long-term.
Climate changes from hour to hour.	Climate cannot be studied using data.
Polar climates are very warm places.	Climate describes patterns of weather over a long time.
Rainfall and temperature can help describe a climate.	Polar climates are very cold most of the year.
Temperate climates have seasons and moderate temperatures.	Temperate climates are always extremely hot.
Climate does not include precipitation.	Tropical climates are warm and often rainy.
A region's climate can be described using average temperature.	Climate changes over many years.
Weather and climate mean the same thing.	Humidity can be part of a region's climate.
A desert climate gets a lot of rainfall.	The climate is only based on one day of weather.

FRAYER MODELS

Name: _____

Climate Vocabulary Frayer Models

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition	Characteristics
climate	
Examples	Non-Examples

Definition	Characteristics
weather	
Examples	Non-Examples



Name: _____

Climate Vocabulary Frayer Models

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition	Characteristics
average	
Examples	Non-Examples

Definition	Characteristics
pattern	
Examples	Non-Examples

READING & CONTEXT

CONTEXT CLUES PASSAGES

CLOZE READING PASSAGES

Name: _____

Passage 2: Climate Zones Around the World

Read the Passage. Underline the vocabulary words. Choose four words. Write what you think the word means based on the context.

climate zone, tropical, temperate, polar, desert, rainfall, humid, dry

Word	
Meaning	

Earth is divided into different climate zones based on temperature and rainfall. Each zone has its own conditions that make it different from other places.

The tropical zone is warm year-roun… often receives heavy rainfall. The a… usually humid, meaning there is a … water in it. Rainforests are found i… zone.

In a desert climate, it is very dry … rainfall. These areas may be ho… the day and cool at night.

The temperate zone has moc… temperatures and distinct se… the polar zone is very cold y… These zones help scientists … compare climates across …

Name: _____

Passage I: Understanding Climate

Read the Passage. Underline the vocabulary words. Choose four words. Write what you think the word means based on the context.

climate, weather, long-term, average, temperature, precipitation, region, pattern

Word	
Meaning	

Climate is different from weather. Weather describes what is happening outside right now, such as whether it is raining or sunny. Climate describes the usual conditions in a place over a long-term period of time.

Scientists study climate by looking at patterns of weather over many years. They do not focus on a single da… or even a single week. Instead, the… information over a long… understand what is ty…

In each region, the averag… and precipitation can di… are usually warm and wet, … are cold and dry.

By studying these patterns, sci… describe a place's climate and … understand how it may chan…

Name: _____

Cloze Passage I: Climate Around the World

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences:
climate, average, weather, temperature, dry, precipitation, patterns, region, tropical, desert, polar, data

Every _____ is different depending on where you live. Climate describes the usual _____ in a _____ over a long period of time.

Scientists stu… _____ to understand climate. They look at th… _____ temperature and how much … _____ fal… n an area.

_____ climate, which mean… …ear. Other places, like the … _____ and get little rain.

_____

…fe. By studying … understand Earth's clim…

Name: _____

Cloze Passage 2: Studying Climate Patterns

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences:
climate, changing, data, pattern, average, temperature, precipitation, yearly, trend, region, weather

Scientists study _____ to understand how climate works. Climate is based on a _____ of weather over a long …

…scientists collect _____. …out _____ and how … falls in a place.

…day, scientists look at …ver many years. This helps them find …perature for a …

…over time, they call it a …tterns help scientists understand … is changing.





APPLICATION & THINKING

SCENARIO CARDS

ERROR ANALYSIS

Climate Scenarios

Name: _____

Read each scenario. Use your knowledge of climate vocabulary to determine the best answer.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
	19	20	
		24	

average
carbon dioxide
climate
climate change
climate zone
coastline

Climate Scenario Cards

Read each scenario. Use your knowledge of climate vocabulary to determine the best answer.

1 Students are visiting a place where it rains almost every day and stays warm all year. What type of climate is this?	**2** A family moves to a place where it rarely rains and the ground is dry and sandy. What type of climate is this?	**3** A scientist studies weather patterns in a region over 30 years. What are they studying?
4 A student writes down the temperature outside every day for a year in a notebook. What are they collecting?	**5** Researchers travel to a place near the North Pole where it is cold all year and covered in ice. What climate region is this?	**6** A scientist measures how much rain falls in a city each month for several years. What are they measuring?
7 A graph shows that temperatures in a region have been slowly increasing over many years. What does this show?	**8** A town has warm summers, cool winters, and changing seasons each year. What type of climate does it have?	**9** Each year, a region has a rainy season followed by a dry season, and this repeats again and agai… What is this an example of?
10 A scientist notices that … to the … than …	**11** Factories release gases into the air that trap heat and warm the Earth. What are these gases called?	**12** A student says, "The … climate changed tod… because it rained th… afternoon." Is this describing something that is sh… term or long-term…

Climate & Weather Concepts

Name: _____

Answer each question using complete sentences. Use at least one vocabulary word in your answer.

1. What is climate?
Explain what climate is and how it is different from weather.

Scientist Says

Name: _____

A scientist made an incorrect claim. Decide why it is correct and explain your thinking. Fix the statement.

Incorrect Statement	Correct Statement
Climate is the weather we have each day, such as when it rains or is sunny.	
We can understand a region's climate by looking at the weather for one week.	
Deserts have high humidity and get a lot of rainfall each year.	
Polar regions are warm because they receive the same amount of sunlight as the equator.	
Climate does not depend on location because all places on Earth receive the same amount of sunlight.	
We do not need data to study climate because we can just observe the weather outside today.	
Trends show what the weather is like on a single day instead of over many years.	
…aces near the ocean have …same temperatures as …s far inland because …r does not	

APPLICATION & THINKING

Quiz-Quiz-Trade Cards

1

Q: A place is warm and rainy all year. What climate zone is this?

A: tropical

2

Q: A region is v… dry and gets little ra… climate is …

A: des…

3

Q: What is climate?

4

Q: A student says climate is the weather today. What is incorrect?

A: climate is long-term, not daily weather

5

Q: What w… something re… ti…

A:

7

Q: What is weather?

A: the conditions outside at a certain time and place

Q: A pla… tem… season…

Quiz-Quiz-Trade Cards

13

Q: What is a place that is very cold and dry with little plant life?

A: tundra

14

Q: A student says deserts get a lot of rain. What is incorrect?

A: Deserts are very dry and get little rainfall.

15

Q: What is a trend?

A: a pattern that shows how something is changing over time

16

Q: A place is high in the mountains and cooler. What factor affects this?

A: elevation

17

Q: What does data mean?

A: information that is collected and studied

18

Q: A scientist studies temperatures over many years. What are they studying?

A: climate

19

Q: What is a coastline?

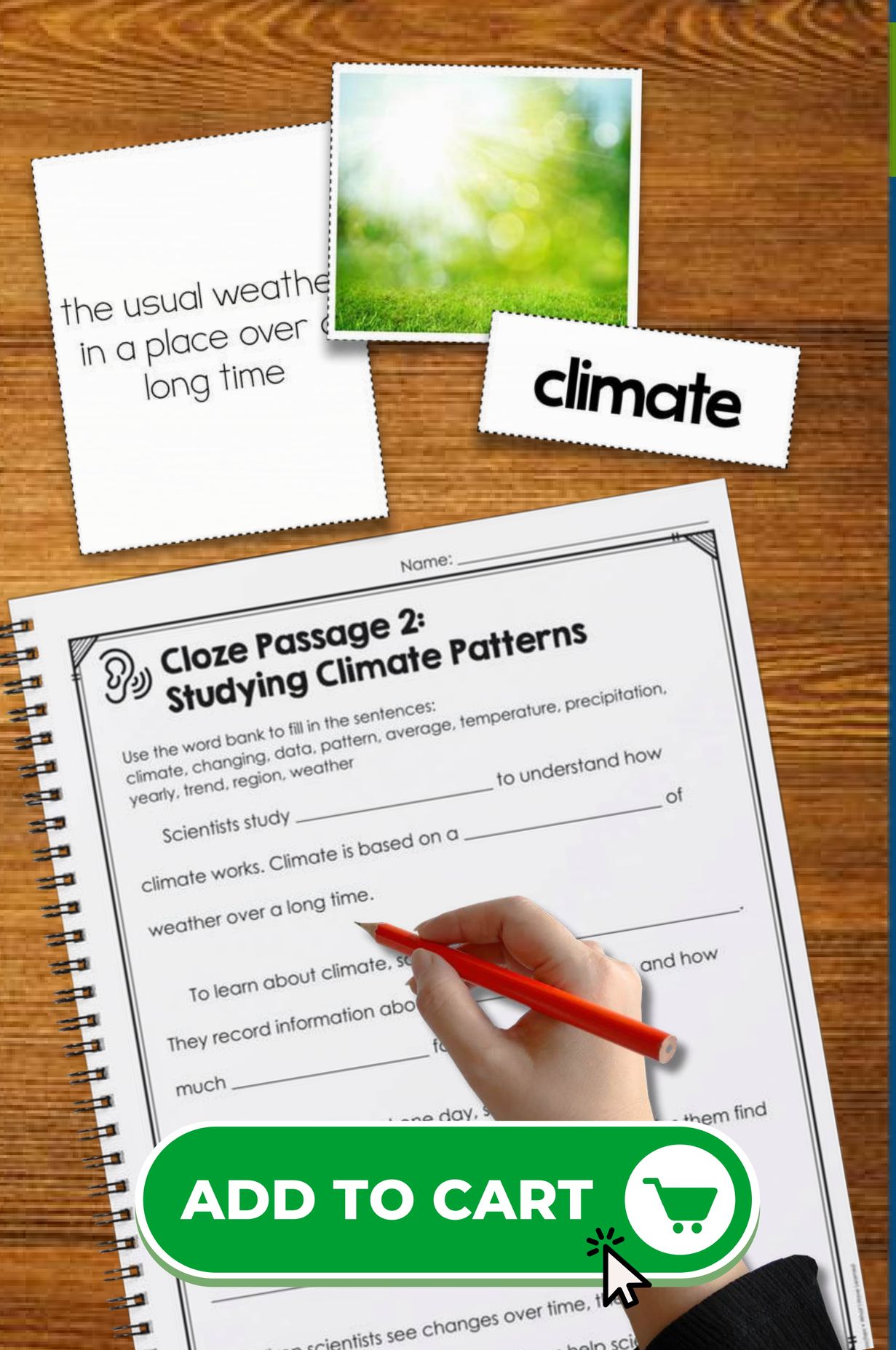
A: the land along the edge of an ocean…

20

Q: A student says climate changes every day. Is this correct?

21

Q: What is a climate zone?



WAYS TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM

🔄 **Science Centers:** Set up independent matching and sorting stations for hands-on review.

🗣️ **Cooperative Learning:** Use Quiz-Quiz-Trade to get students moving and talking about weather terms.

📝 **Morning Work:** Assign a Frayer Model or a reading passage as a daily warm-up.

🧠 **Assessment:** Use the error analysis cards to check for deep conceptual understanding before a test.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



Scaffolded Learning

Move students from basic identification to complex error analysis with a structured, research-based instructional progression that ensures mastery.



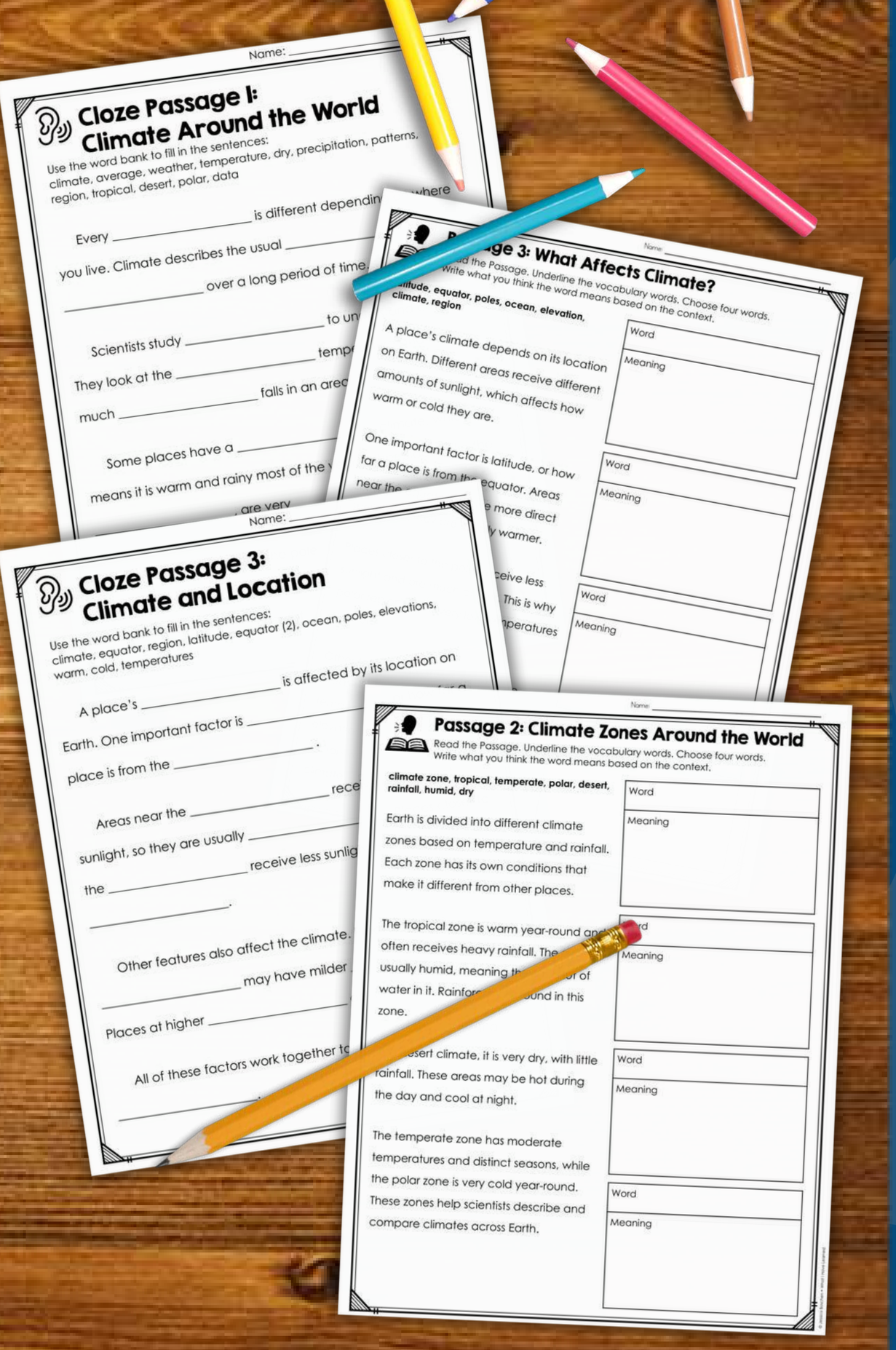
Active Engagement

Incorporate movement and social interaction with Quiz-Quiz-Trade, keeping students energized and focused on scientific vocabulary and concepts.



Low Prep

Save hours of planning with ready-to-print activities that cover everything from initial introduction to final review and assessment.



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My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



What I have LEARNED