ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES

GRADES 3–5

History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a holiday that celebrates love. Have you ever wondered why it's called Valentine's Day and how the holiday started?

In the third century, there were many wars. One leader, Claudius II, wanted a strong army, but no one wanted to be in his army. Claudius thought it was because people wanted to stay with their families. He believed unmarried soldiers would be able to fight better, so he forbade marriage. No one was allowed to marry.



A priest named Valentine disagreed with Claudius. Valentine decided to break the law to help people get married in secret. Valentine was caught and put in jail. On February 14, 269 he was executed.

In 496 AD, the leader of the Catholic Church honored St. Valentine by declaring the day of his death as St. Valentine's Day.

In the Middle Ages, people began exchanging love poems and handmade cards on Valentine's Day to honor Saint Valentine and celebrate love. It wasn't until the 18th century in England that couples started to exchange gifts, flowers, and candies. Stores began selling Valentine's Day cards in the 1840s.



Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is the second most popular holiday to exchange cards. When you give the most popular holiday card.

Valentine's Day Traditions Around the World

Valentine's Day is a special day when people around the world celebrate love and friendship. The tradition of exchanging cards, flowers, and chocolates on this special day began in Europe centuries ago, but each country has its own way of celebrating this holiday.

In Japan, Valentine's Day is celebrated much like in the United States but with a twist. On February 14th, women show their love by giving cards and sweets. On [illegible] men return the favor by giving gifts and chocolates on [illegible] women.

South Korea celebrates the holiday much like Japan. February 14th is known as Red Day. Women give gifts on this day. On March 14, White Day, men send gifts. South Koreans have a third day. On April 14, Day, unmarried and [illegible] black bean pasta.

In [illegible], women [illegible] things in [illegible] Chocolates represent love, one a [illegible]

The people of Wales celebrate St. Dwynwen's Day on January 25th. On this day, men give carved wooden love spoons. Stories say that men carved the spoons while at sea to bring back home. These spoons are also exchanged as gifts during other celebrations, such as weddings, anniversaries, and births.

In India, people honor the love between husbands and wives only, not between boyfriends and girlfriends. It is also common for families to celebrate Valentine's Day with fireworks and special events.

Argentina celebrates Valentine's Day for a whole week in July. Couples exchange chocolate and other sweet treats. The [illegible] "Semana de la Dulzura" [illegible] week of sweetness.

While the [illegible] Day vary from [illegible] thing is clear: [illegible] of love and [illegible] worldwide. [illegible]

HISTORY OF Valentine's Day

3 READING PASSAGES

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

💌 **3 Nonfiction Reading Passages**

- History of Valentine's Day
- Valentine's Day Around the World
- History of Chocolate

🔑 **Vocabulary Posters & Matching Activities**

🗂️ **Graphic Organizers**

✍️ **Comprehension Worksheets**

🧠 **Sequencing & Categorization Activities**

📝 **Writing Prompts & Reflection Questions**

📱 **QR Codes** to safe videos & websites

✔️ **Answer Keys** for all activities



to trade





the rules of a country, state, or community

exchange

law

VOCABULARY CARDS

Name: _____

Valentine's Day Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		
		
		
		

Valentine's Day Vocabulary

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the p

tradition	**celebration**	to act in place of something
law	**exchange**	to say something or announce it
declare	**forbid**	a thing used t represent something
represent	**symbol**	a long-establis way of doin something pas on from generation generatio

© Jessica Boschen @ What I Have Learned

Name: _____

Valentine's Day Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

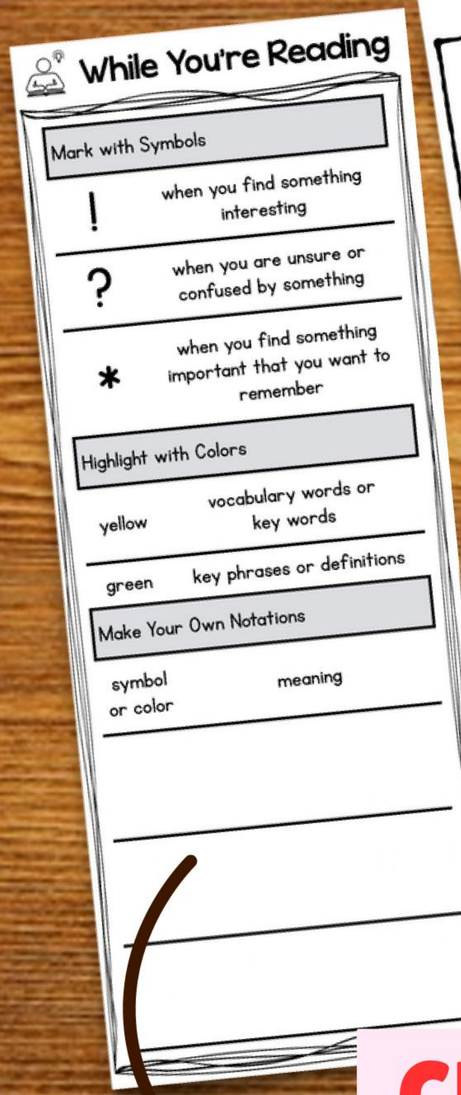
Definition	Characteristics
tradition	
Examples	Non-Examples

Definition	Characteristics
celebration	
Examples	Non-Examples

© Jessica Boschen @ What I Have Learned

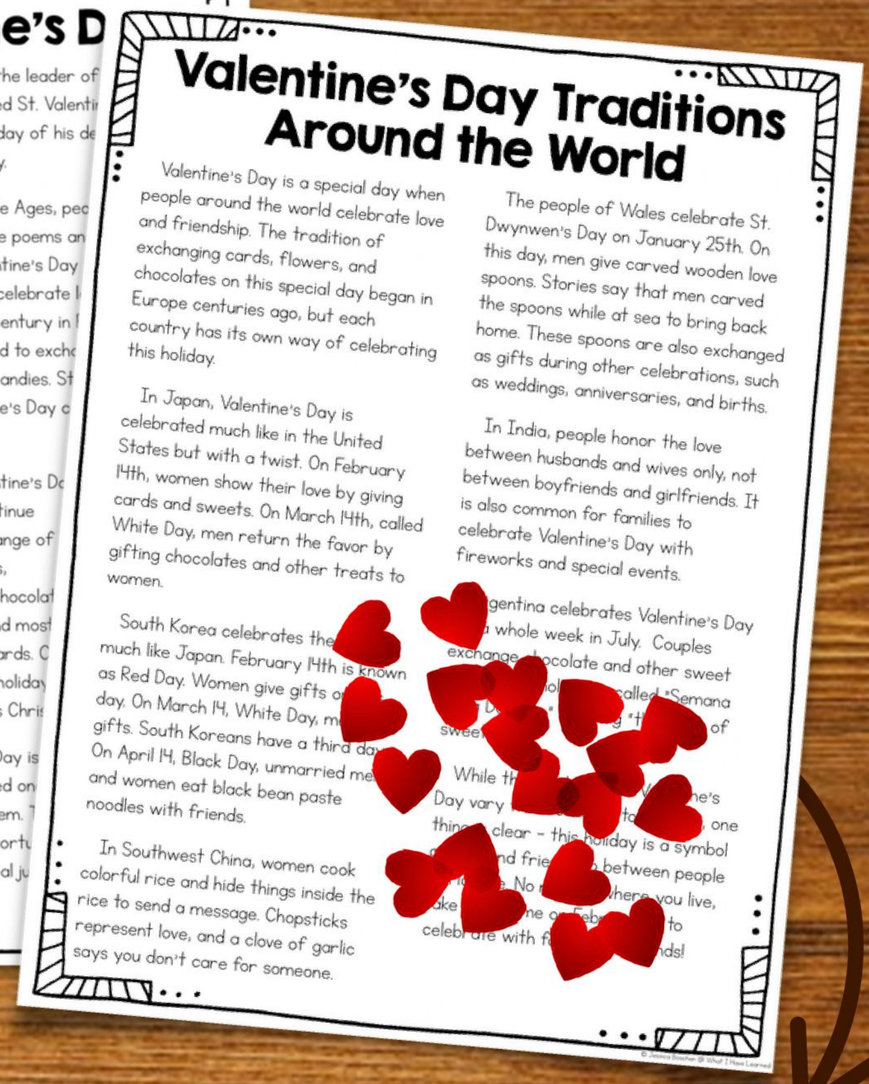
VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

- **History of Valentine's Day**
- **Valentine's Day Traditions Around the World**





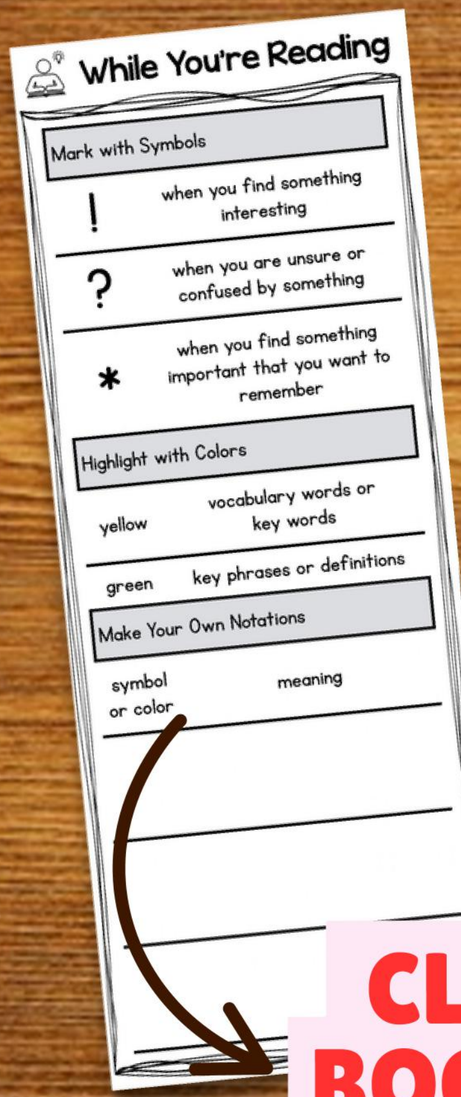




CLOSE READING BOOKMARK PAGE

INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

• History of Chocolate





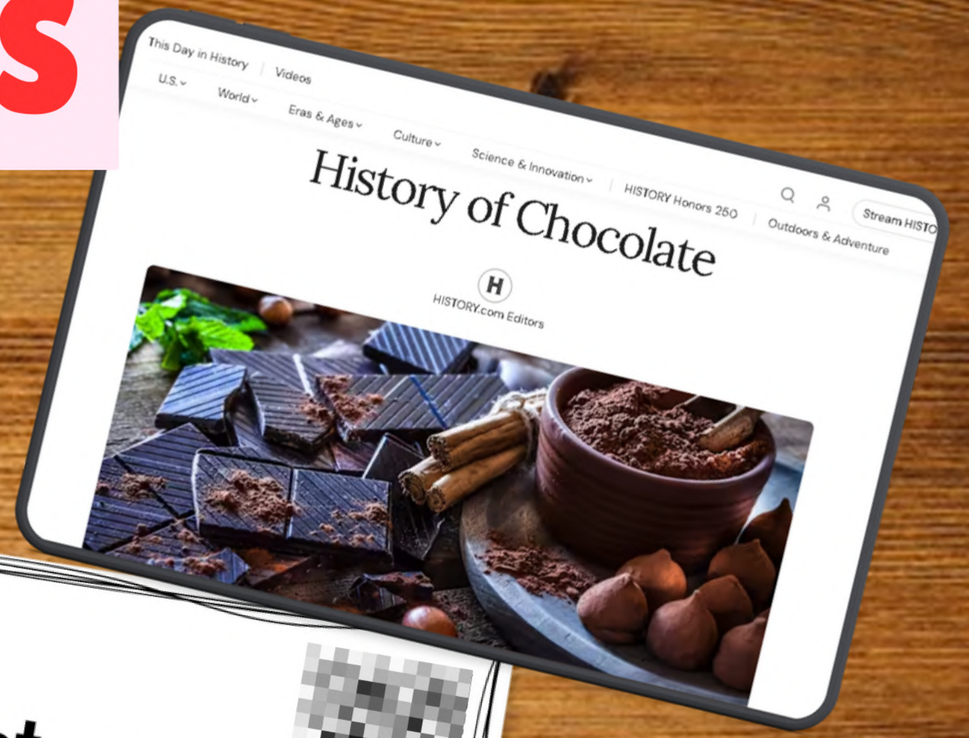


CLOSE READING BOOKMARK PAGE

INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

WEBSITES


Valentine's Day Facts For Kids | Valentine's Day Information for Kids
7:52 / 12:00


This Day in History
Videos
U.S.
World
Eras & Ages
Culture
Science & Innovation
HISTORY Honors 250
Outdoors & Adventure
History of Chocolate
HISTORY.com Editors


Valentine's Day
Web Sites
Videos


History of Chocolate
Web Sites



NOTE TAKING SHEETS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Directions: Cut apart the labels and facts. Sort the facts into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Chocolate in Central America

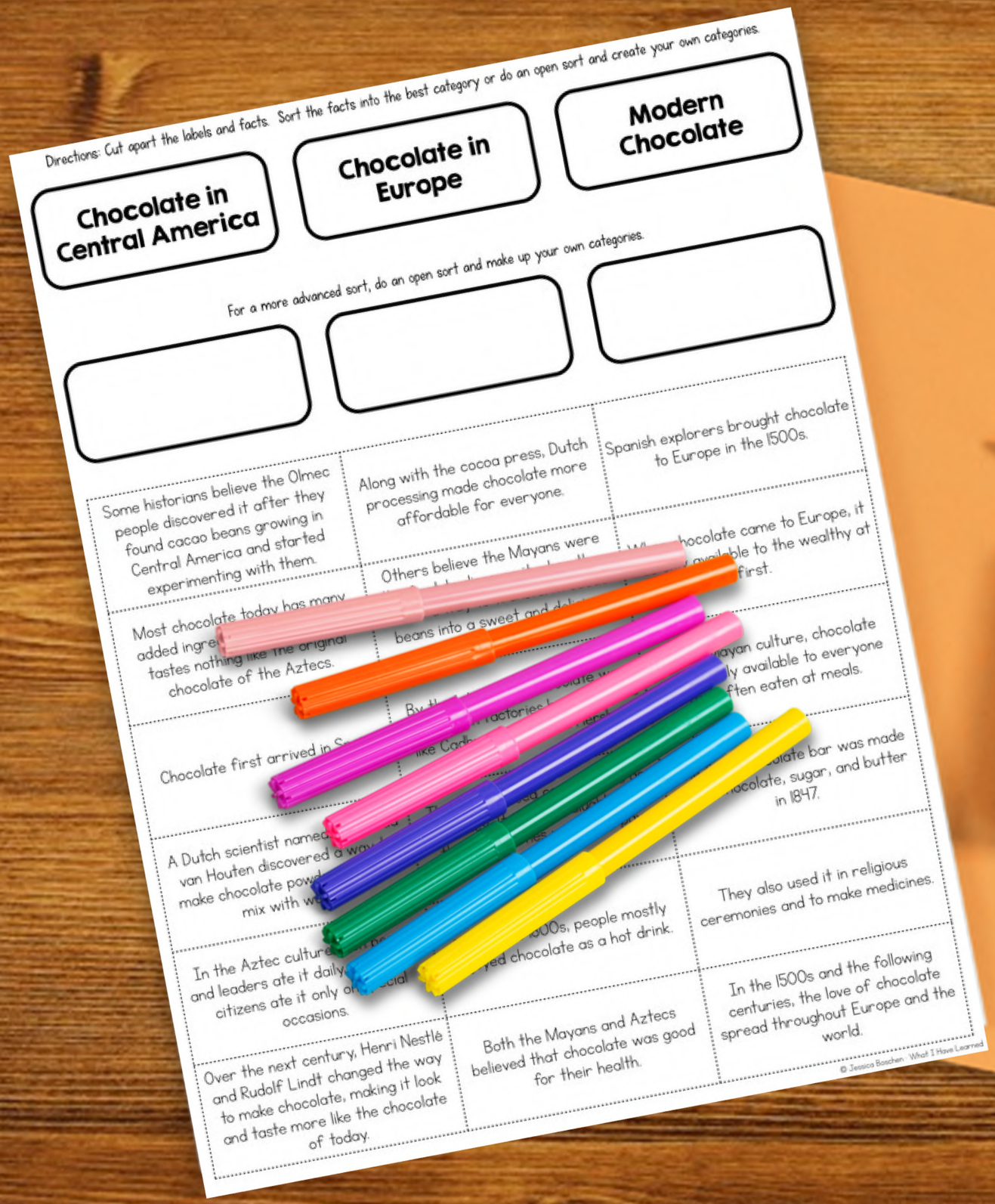
Chocolate in Europe

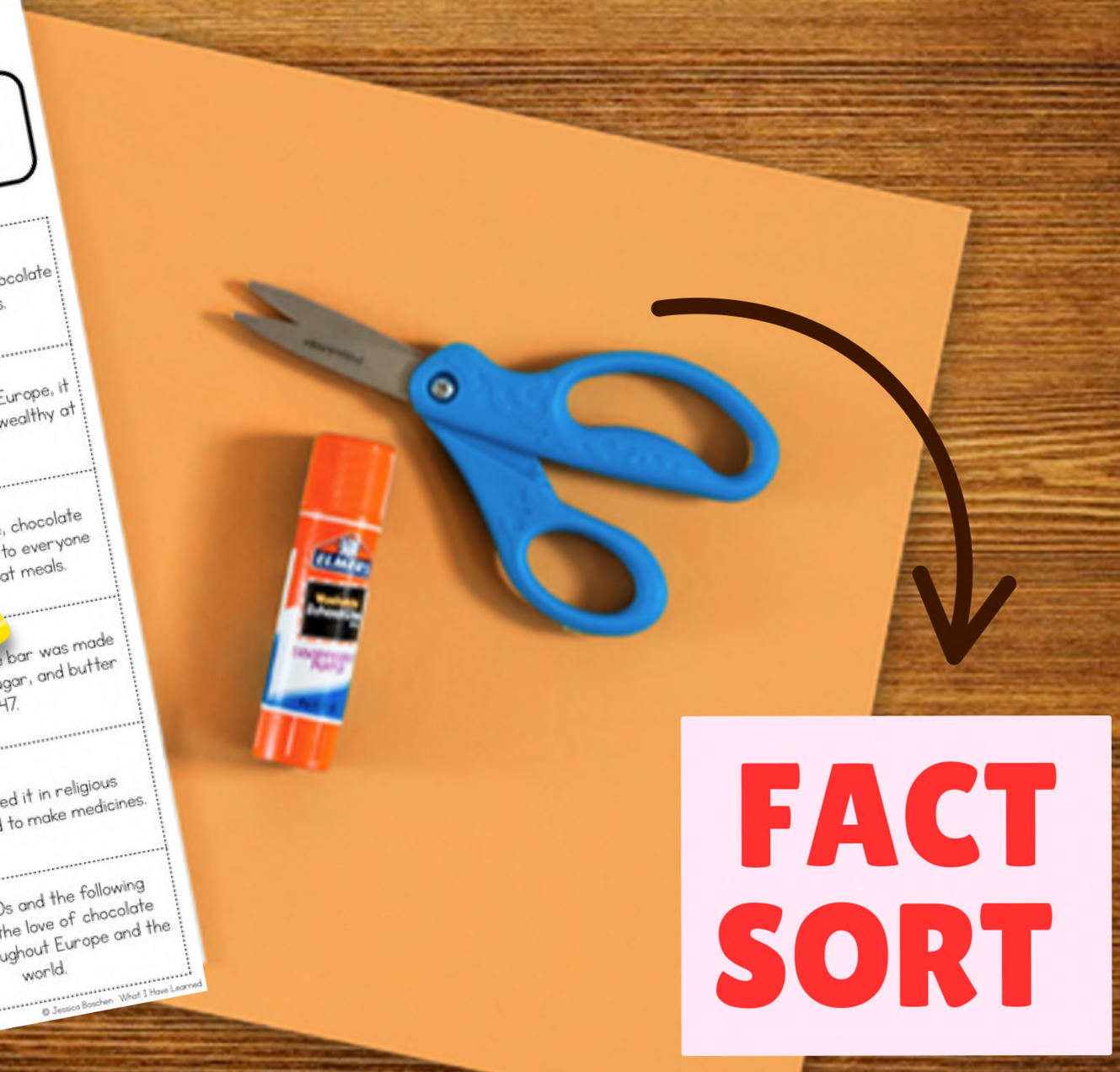
Modern Chocolate

For a more advanced sort, do an open sort and make up your own categories.

Some historians believe the Olmec people discovered it after they found cacao beans growing in Central America and started experimenting with them.	Along with the cocoa press, Dutch processing made chocolate more affordable for everyone.	Spanish explorers brought chocolate to Europe in the 1500s.
Most chocolate today has many added ingre… tastes nothing like the original chocolate of the Aztecs.	Others believe the Mayans were … beans into a sweet and …	…hocolate came to Europe, it …ailable to the wealthy at first.
Chocolate first arrived in S…	By th… factories … like Cadb…	…ayan culture, chocolate …y available to everyone …ften eaten at meals.
A Dutch scientist named … van Houten discovered a way … make chocolate powd… mix with w…	…	…olate bar was made …ocolate, sugar, and butter in 1847.
In the Aztec culture … and leaders ate it daily … citizens ate it only … occasions.	…000s, people mostly …yed chocolate as a hot drink.	They also used it in religious ceremonies and to make medicines.
Over the next century, Henri Nestlé and Rudolf Lindt changed the way to make chocolate, making it look and taste more like the chocolate of today.	Both the Mayans and Aztecs believed that chocolate was good for their health.	In the 1500s and the following centuries, the love of chocolate spread throughout Europe and the world.

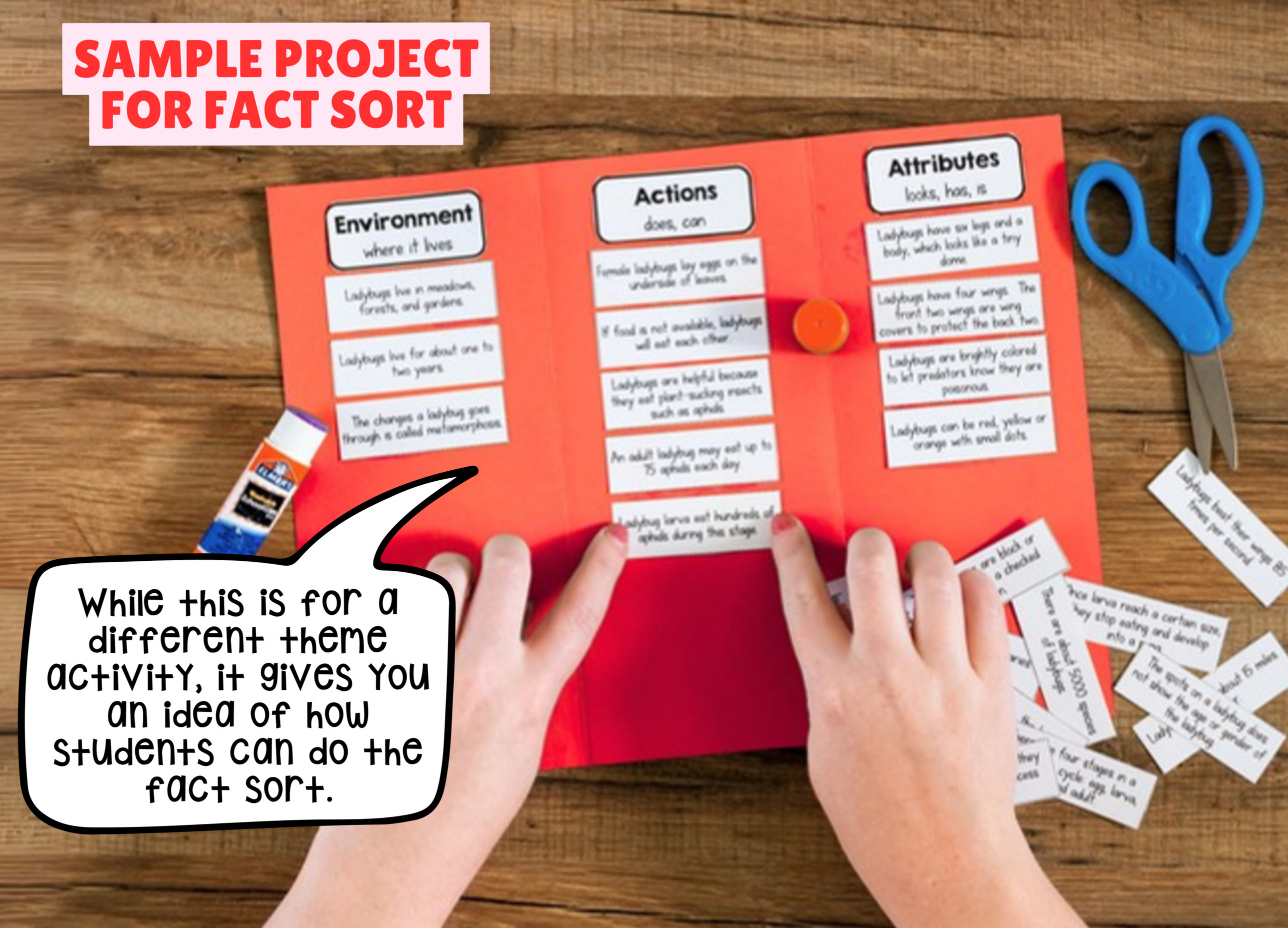
© Jessica Boschen What I Have Learned

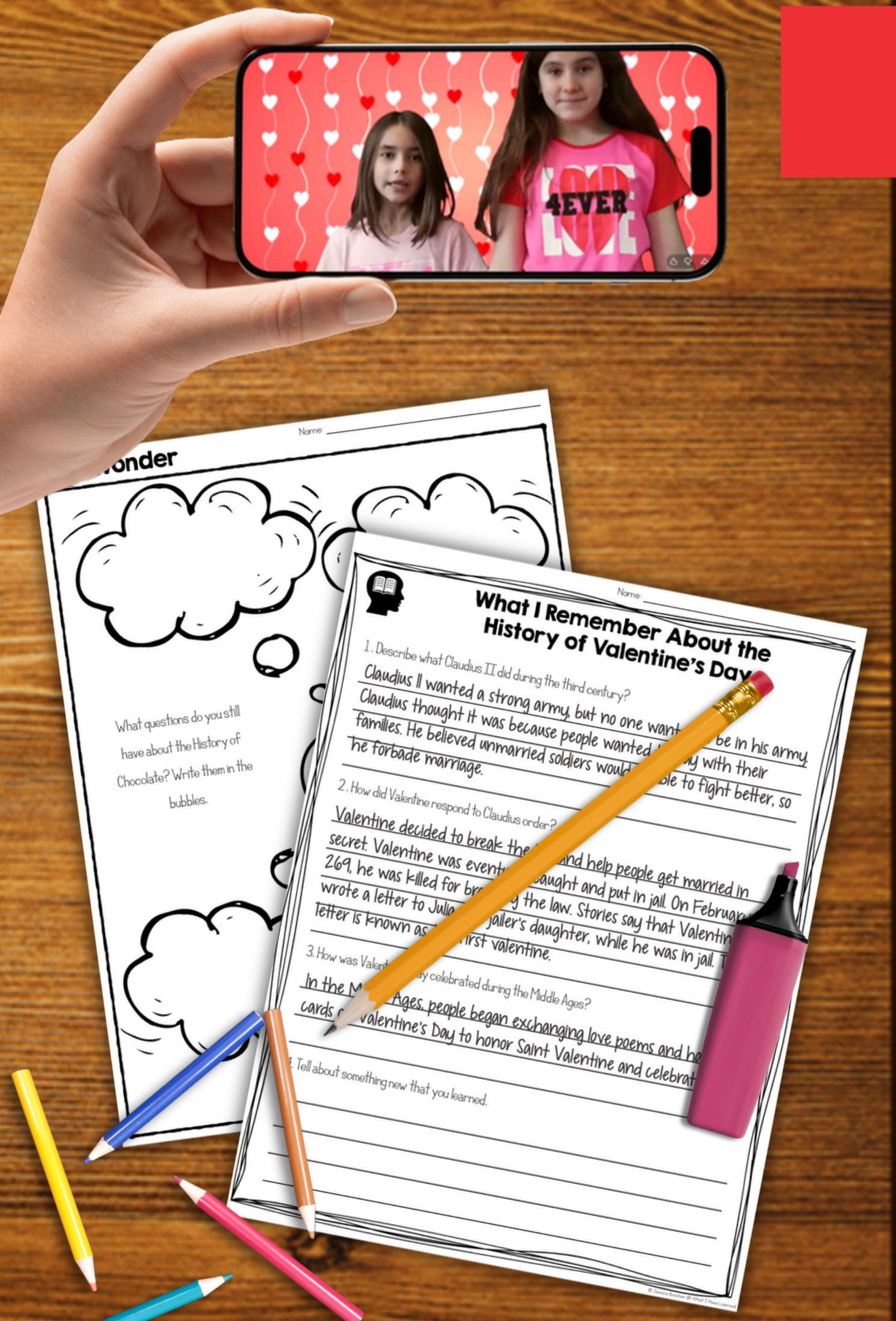




FACT SORT

SAMPLE PROJECT FOR FACT SORT





WAYS TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM

📖 **Whole-Group Reading –** Read passages aloud and discuss key ideas

📚 **Small Groups –** Use vocabulary cards and graphic organizers

📝 **Independent Work –** Comprehension pages and writing prompts

💻 **Research Extension –** QR codes for videos and websites

🏠 **Sub Plans or Homework –** Ready-to-use, no prep required

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



Meaningful Holiday Learning

Keeps students engaged during February while focusing on nonfiction reading, writing, vocabulary development, and social studies connections.



More Than Candy and Cards

Students learn the “why” behind Valentine’s Day traditions, building deeper understanding instead of surface-level holiday activities.



Engages All Learners

Visuals, QR codes, graphic organizers, and varied response formats support diverse learning styles and reading levels.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

Love having some holiday themed activities to match the day, this is so grerat.

Regina S.

These are perfect for reviewing before our quarterly testing and they have a fun holiday twist so my students don't realize that they are reviewing at the same time.

Kimberly H.



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