

Name: _____

Discovering New Orleans: City Below the Sea

New Orleans is a lively city in the south of the United States. It sits near the Gulf of Mexico, and a big river called the Mississippi flows through it. On a map, you will notice New Orleans sits lower than much of the land around it.

Because of this low area, special walls called levees were built to hold back water and protect the city from floods.

One neighborhood called the Lower Ninth Ward is known for its strong community. Many families have lived there for years and are friends with each other. The city is also famous for its music, colorful parades, and delicious food. People from all over the world come to enjoy its unique culture. New Orleans is a city full of energy and history.



Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Discovering New Orleans: City Below the Sea

New Orleans is a lively city in the south of the (11)

United States. It sits near the Gulf of Mexico, (20)

and a big river called the Mississippi flows (28)

through it. On a map, you will notice New Orleans (38)

sits lower than much of the land around it. (47)

Because of this low area, special walls called (55)

levees were built to hold back water and protect (64)

the city from floods. (68)

One neighborhood called the Lower Ninth Ward is (76)

known for its strong community. Many families have (84)

lived there for years and are friends with each (93)

other. The city is also famous for its music, (102)

colorful parades, and delicious food. People from (109)

all over the world come to enjoy its unique (118)

culture. New Orleans is a city full of energy and (128)

history. (129)

Comprehension Questions:

Literal Question:

What helps protect New Orleans from floods?

Answer:

Levees help protect the city from floods.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Inferential Question:

Why might people feel close in the Lower Ninth Ward?

Answer:

They have lived there for years and know each other.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Vocabulary Question:

What does the word 'levees' mean in this passage?

Answer:

Walls built to hold back water.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Notes:

Scoring Guide

Text Level: F&P GRL Q Grade Level: 4 Word Count: 129

Total Words Read: _____

Errors: _____

WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM) _____

WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade level

Prosody: 1 2 3 4

Comprehension: _____ / 3 correct

How to Administer the Fluency Passage Assessment

Assess Oral Reading Fluency

- Give the student a copy of the passage. **Set a timer or stopwatch for 1 minute.**
- Ask the student to begin reading. As the student reads aloud, assess prosody and mark errors and self-corrections on the evaluation copy using the following guides.
- **Stop the student when one minute has passed.** Take note of the last word the student read.
- Score the passage on the evaluation copy according to the **Scoring Guide**. Use the following chart to compare grade level norms for words correctly read per minute.

Marking Conventions	
Attempted Word = Substitution Error	✓ = Accurate Word Reading
^ = Insertion Error	Attempted Word S/C = Self Correction
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
T = Intervention Error (telling student the word)	

Prosody Rubric	1	2	3	4
Expression and Volume	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression
Phrasing	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing
Smoothness	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident
Pace	too slow or too fast	uneven pace	generally appropriate pace	consistent, conversational pace

Grade Level Norms (WCPM) *							
Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
First	0 - 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	Fourth	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
Second	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	Fifth	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
Third	50 - 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	Sixth	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

* Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

Fluency Builder: Discovering New Orleans: City Below the Sea

Passage Details

Grade Level: 4

Reading Level: F&P GRL Q

Word Count: 129

High-Frequency Words

area, friends, low, map, music

Suggestions for Use

Increase Exposure to High-Frequency Words

- Before reading, introduce the list of high-frequency words in the passage.
- Find the words in the passage. Highlight or underline the words.

Illustrate and Label Extension Activity

- Have students draw and label items mentioned in the passage.

Link to Writing or Discussion

- Encourage knowledge transfer and personal connection by asking:
"Describe why New Orleans is special to people."
"Tell about a community that is important to you."

Use for Repeated Readings

Day 1: Teacher reads aloud, then echo read

Day 2: Partner reading

Day 3: One-minute fluency timing and WCPM tracking

Day 4: Performance reading (with expression!)