

# Compare “The Lottery” to Modern Traditions

This comparison activity explores real-life traditions and guides students to compare these unique rituals to “The Lottery”



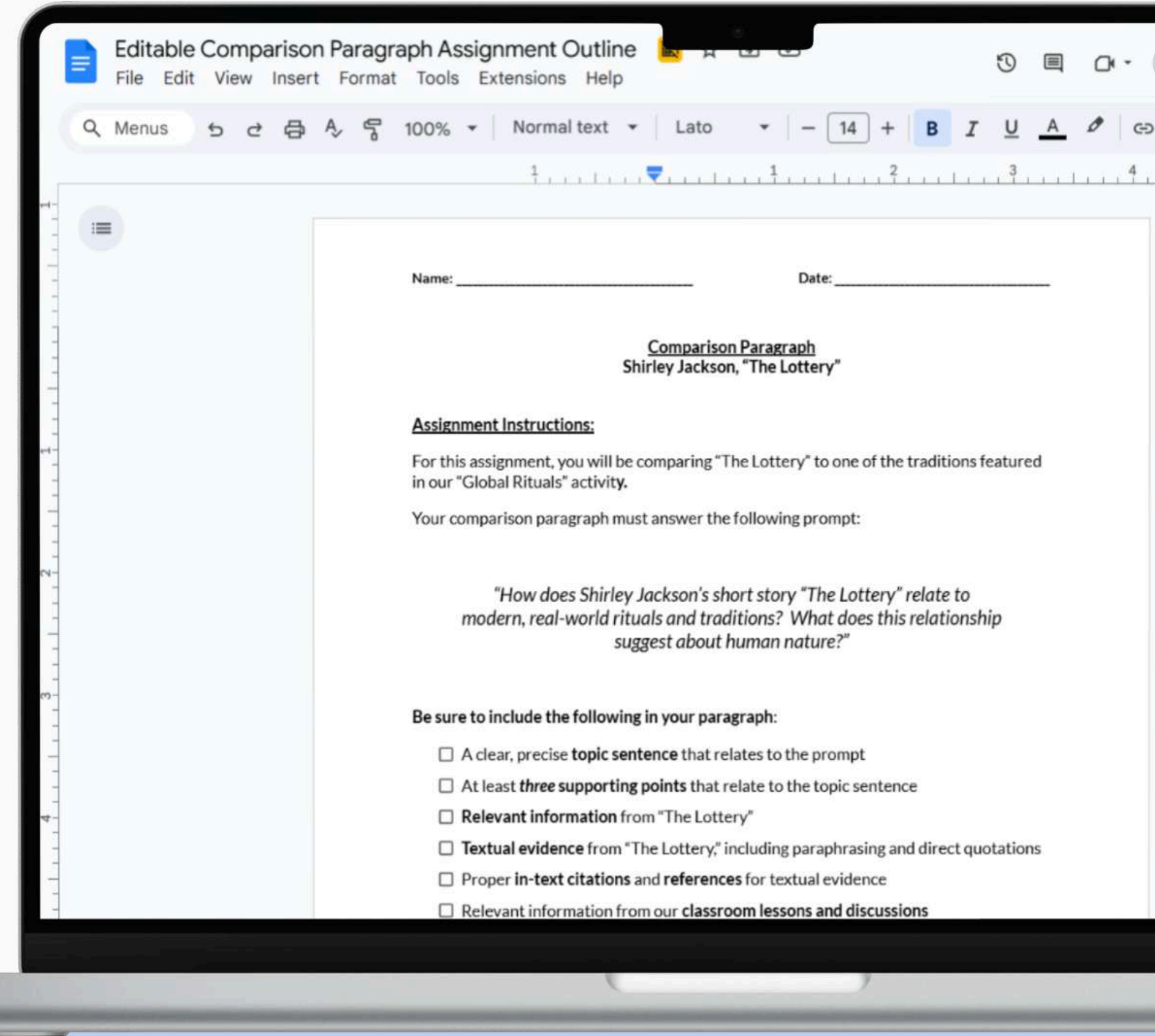
- **Introduce students to six diverse global rituals** that prompt critical thinking about conformity, tradition, and cultural norms
- **Encourage thoughtful analysis** by comparing real-world practices with the fictional ritual in Shirley Jackson’s “The Lottery”
- **Practice writing comparison paragraphs** with the assignment and rubric provided

**Compare “The Lottery” to 6 traditions from around the world!**

**PURCHASE HERE**

# Included with this resource:

- ✔ “Global Rituals” **Informational Handouts**
  - Task cards highlight rituals from Scotland, Iceland, Borneo, Brazil, Greece, and Indonesia
- ✔ “Global Rituals” **Worksheets**
  - Compare the ritual to the tradition in Shirley Jackson’s short story
- ✔ **Editable & Ready-to-Print Comparison Paragraph Assignment**
- ✔ **Editable & Ready-to-Print 4-Level Rubric**
- ✔ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Resources for Google Drive®

# Explore Six Modern Rituals from Around the World

This activity includes informational cards about rituals from Scotland, Iceland, Borneo, Brazil, Greece, and Indonesia.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ICELAND: "THORRABLOT"

*Global Rituals*



To pay homage to the Norse god Thor, Icelandic people celebrate with a sacrificial meal of unappetizing Icelandic food. The celebration occurs during the 13th week of winter of Thorri (overlapping with January and February in the Gregorian calendar). The tradition dates back to the 10th century. Many Pagan rituals. Thorrablot was replaced with Christianity.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE TIDONG TRIBE: "BATHROOM BAN"

*Global Rituals*




The Tidong Tribe originated in the Southeast Asian country of Borneo and now resides in Malaysia and Indonesia. In Tidong culture, it is a tradition to ban newlywed couples from using the restroom. Unlike a typical honeymoon, the couple must stay in their home and are given very little food to eat for three days. They are guarded by friends and family, who supervise the couple to ensure that they complete the task.

The Tidong people believe that this tradition is necessary to promote a strong, faithful, and enduring marriage. If they fail, the couple expects their marriage to end -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MAWÉ PEOPLE: "BULLET ANT GLOVES"

*Global Rituals*




The Mawé are Indigenous peoples of north-western Brazil. To mark a boy's coming of age into manhood, he must wear gloves filled with bullet ants. Bullet ants have an excruciatingly painful sting - more so than any other insect. These ants are gathered and placed into a sedative until they lose consciousness. Then, they are sewn into gloves made from woven leaves. When the ants regain

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHIOS: "ROCKET WAR"

*Global Rituals*



For centuries, the Greek island of Chios has engaged in a rocket war between two rival churches: Saint Mark Orthodox Church and Holy Church of Panaghia Ereithiani. The battle happens on Easter Sunday of each year. The goal is for each church to hit its opponent's bell tower. This tradition dates back to the Ottoman Empire.


The churches are built less than half a mile apart, and between the churches lies a body of water. In the earlier days of this tradition, the churches would use cannons to fire at one another. In the late 1800s, when cannons were no longer permitted by law, the churches resorted to the use of bottle rockets. The rocket war was canceled in 2016 due to complaints about property damage. Despite these complaints, it was revived the following year.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## BALI: "TOOTH FILING"

*Global Rituals*



Tooth filing, known as metatah in Bali, is an important rite of passage in Hindu Balinese culture. This tradition is practiced to mark a person's coming of age. The ceremony is held in the family's house and is led by a priest. The child must dress in traditional clothing and ask for their parents' blessing before beginning. The priest leads a prayer before filing the top front teeth - especially the canine teeth - so that they are even. When the ceremony is complete, the child receives traditional foods representing six different taste buds: sweet, sour, bitter, salty, spicy, and astringent.


This ritual is said to protect the child from several vices, including greed, jealousy, anger, and lust. These are said to enter the body through the top front six teeth.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCOTLAND: "BLACKENING OF THE BRIDE"

*Global Rituals*



In the rural regions of north-east Scotland, a messy wedding tradition takes place before the bride and groom are wed. The friends and family of the bride and groom capture them in order to cover them in a variety of off-putting materials - these can include flour, feathers, food, and a sticky syrup-like adhesive. After soiling the couple, they are paraded around town in the back of a truck.

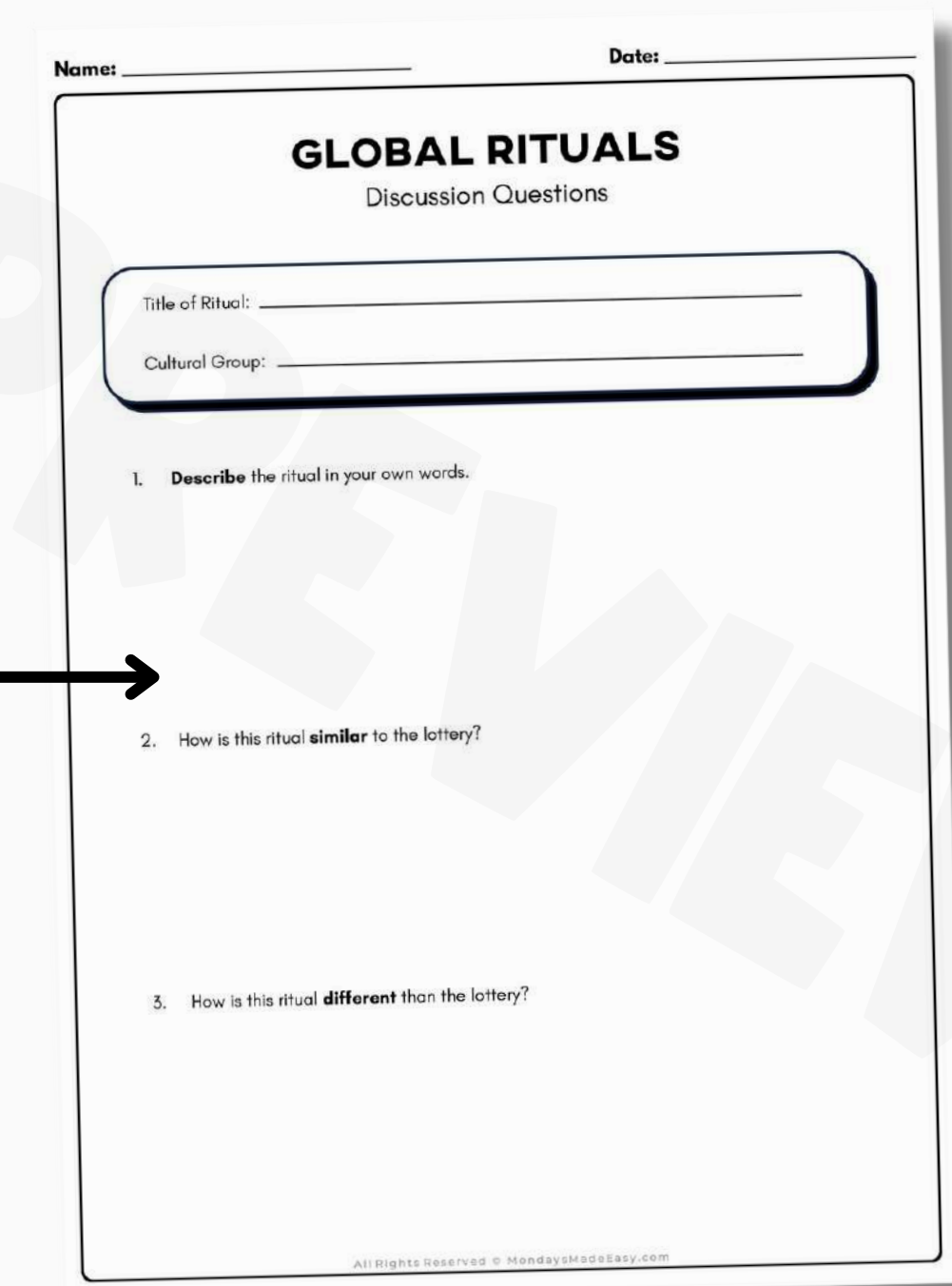
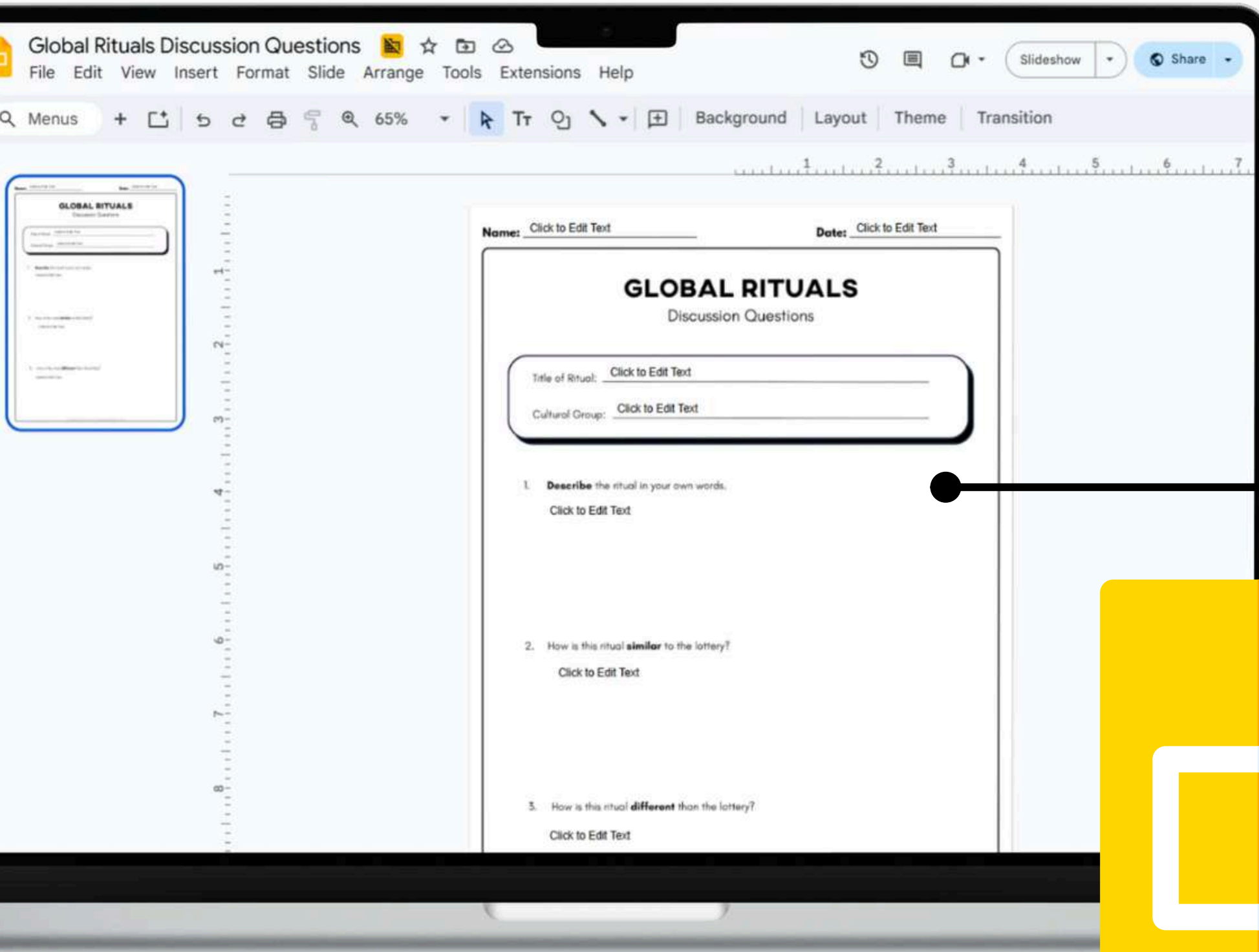
This ceremony seems to have evolved from a wedding ritual where the bride and groom wash their feet before marriage. In the early 19th century, this ritual developed to involve blackening the feet prior to the ceremony. Over time, the ritual has continued to develop into a rambunctious and humiliating display.

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Use these informational cards for a **station activity** or to facilitate **group-work!**

# Global Rituals Worksheet with Discussion Questions

Students will use this worksheet to summarize each ritual and compare it to "The Lottery."



# Comparison Paragraph Writing Assignment

Students will write a comparison paragraph by selecting one of the global rituals to compare to "The Lottery."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPARISON PARAGRAPH

Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery"

**Instructions:** For this assignment, you will be comparing "The Lottery" to one of the traditions featured in our "Global Rituals" activity.

Your comparison paragraph must answer the following prompt:

*"How does Shirley Jackson's short story "The Lottery" relate to modern, real-world rituals and traditions? What does this relationship suggest about human nature?"*

**Be sure to include the following in your paragraph:**

- A clear, precise **topic sentence** that relates to the prompt
- At least **three supporting points** that relate to the topic sentence
- Relevant information** from "The Lottery"
- Textual evidence** from "The Lottery," including paraphrasing and direct quotations
- Proper **in-text citations** and **references** for textual evidence
- Relevant information from our **classroom lessons and discussions**

For more guidance on assessment expectations, **review the 4-level rubric** provided.

Assignment Weight: \_\_\_\_\_


Assignment Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SAMPLE ANSWER

## COMPARISON PARAGRAPH

Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery"

Shirley Jackson's short story "The Lottery" relates to modern, real-world rituals and traditions by showing how people often follow customs without questioning their purpose, as seen in the Tidong Tribe's "Bathroom Ban." Both "The Lottery" and the Tidong ritual involve community pressure to uphold traditions, even when they involve discomfort or potential harm. In "The Lottery," villagers gather each year to draw slips of paper that result in the death of one person. Despite its cruelty, the ritual continues because the villagers are afraid to stop. Similarly, the Tidong Tribe's "Bathroom Ban" involves a ritual where the tribe abstains from using the bathroom for three days. Even though the practice is physically uncomfortable, no one stops to ask why it is necessary. As the narrator explains that "the original purpose of the ritual was lost long ago," yet the villagers continue the practice. In both cases, individuals feel trapped by tradition and fear of social ostracism. Our classroom discussions often lean toward preserving tradition for the sake of community control, even when those traditions may no longer be beneficial. This comparison suggests that people can become so accustomed to tradition that they ignore the ethical problems in their actions, showing how conformity and fear of standing out can override compassion and critical thinking.

Jackson, Shirley. *The Lottery*. Originally published in *The New Yorker*, 1948.

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Includes  
Mentor  
Text!

# Editable & Ready-to-Print 4-Level Rubric

Modify this rubric to meet the unique needs of your classroom!

Editable 4-Level Rubric Comparison Paragraph

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Extensions Help

Menus 100% Normal text Lato 9 B I U A

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (%) \_\_\_\_\_

Comparison Paragraph: 4-Level Rubric

Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>Knowledge</b>	Paragraph requires more important information from the short story Information is loosely related to the comparison prompt Paragraph does not successfully integrate textual evidence See comments below	Paragraph highlights some important information from the short story Information is somewhat related to the comparison prompt Paragraph integrates textual evidence with some success See comments below	Paragraph highlights important information from the short story related to the comparison prompt Paragraph integrates relevant textual evidence successfully	Paragraph thoroughly highlights important information from the short story related to the comparison prompt Paragraph integrates highly relevant textual evidence flawlessly
<b>Inquiry</b>	Topic sentence and supporting points require more clarity, precision, or insight See comments below	Topic sentence and supporting points are somewhat clear and insightful See comments below	Topic sentence and supporting points are written with clarity, precision, and insight	Topic sentence and supporting points are written with flawless clarity and precision; ideas demonstrate thought-provoking insight
<b>Communication</b>	The grammar and mechanics require improvement Paragraph does not contain paraphrasing or direct quotations See comments below	The grammar and mechanics contain some lapses Paragraph contains either paraphrasing or direct quotations, but not both Citations are not referenced according to MLA standards See comments below	The grammar and mechanics are excellent Paragraph contains both paraphrasing and direct quotations Citations are referenced successfully according to MLA standards	The grammar and mechanics are flawless Paragraph contains both paraphrasing and direct quotations Citations are referenced perfectly according to MLA standards
<b>Application</b>	Paragraph requires more connection to information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Paragraph structure requires revision	Paragraph somewhat relates to information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Paragraph structure could use improvement	Paragraph incorporates information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Paragraph structure is formatted according to classroom guidelines	Paragraph expands on information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Paragraph structure is formatted flawlessly according to classroom guidelines

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (%) \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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# See what others are saying...

Here's what teachers like you are loving about this **Global Rituals Activity!**

 **Extremely Satisfied**

My students loved using this as an extension activity. While I still had some groups reading the short story, I was able to use this as enrichment. My students thought the rituals were very interesting.

– Sandra B.

 **Extremely Satisfied**

This activity was really memorable for my students. It drove the message of the short-story home and also piqued so much interest - you know real learning has happened when students go out for recess and tell other students about what they've learned! Thank you for putting the time and effort into researching this resource.

– Stephanie K.