

Name: _____



No Sweat
Test Prep

Edition 3

Reading Skills Practice Test

This is the last of your three practice tests for 2012-13.

Instructions for Taking This Test

- This test has three reading passages. Read the directions at the start of each passage. The directions tell you how to answer the questions.
- Some questions are harder than others. If you have trouble with a question, give it your best try and then move on.

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SECTION 1: READING COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage below. Then read each question that follows the story. Choose the best answer to each question. Fill in the circle for the answer you have chosen.

A Famous Flier

(1) Have you ever heard of Amelia Earhart? Almost 100 years ago, she became one of the world's first female pilots. She flew across whole oceans—and landed right in our history books!

(2) Amelia Earhart was born in Kansas in 1897. When she was young, she liked to hunt, fish, and climb trees. Her family called her a tomboy, but Amelia didn't mind. She thought girls and women should do whatever made them happy.

(3) When Amelia was 23 years old, she went to an airplane show with her dad. She loved watching the planes swoop through the sky. She even got a chance to ride in a plane. That

day, a dream was born. Amelia decided to become a pilot. Amelia began taking flying lessons. A few months later, she bought her own plane. It was a small yellow plane with two seats. She called it *The Canary*. She flew it every chance she got. One day she flew it 14,000 feet above the ground. That's about the same height as 10 Empire State Buildings stacked on top of one another! It was higher than any other female pilot had ever flown.



UNDERWOOD AND UNDERWOOD/CORBIS

KEEP READING ►



SECTION 1: READING COMPREHENSION

(Continued from previous page.)

(4) In 1928, Amelia was invited to join a special project. She was asked to fly across the Atlantic Ocean with two male pilots. Amelia would be a passenger, not a pilot. But she would be the first woman to make the flight. Amelia said yes. After the trip, she was famous. A big parade was held for her in New York City.

(5) Even with all that attention, Amelia was not quite happy. She dreamed of flying across the Atlantic by herself. In 1932, she made her dream come true. She left from Canada and landed in Ireland more than 13 hours later. Amelia set two world records that day. She

became the first female pilot to fly across the Atlantic. She also made the trip faster than any male pilot ever had!

(6) Next, Amelia flew across the Pacific Ocean. She kept setting records and making headlines. In 1937, she decided to become the first woman to fly all the way around the world. Amelia planned her trip carefully, and on June 1, she and her partner took off from Florida. But something terrible happened. Four weeks after she took off, Amelia and her plane disappeared. Today, her disappearance is still one of history's big mysteries.

1. What does paragraph 2 of this passage tell you?

- Ⓐ about the history of airplanes
- Ⓑ what Amelia was like as a child
- Ⓒ how Amelia got interested in flying
- Ⓓ about Amelia's most famous flight

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 2:

Her family called her a tomboy, but Amelia didn't mind.

In this sentence, what is the word didn't short for?

- Ⓐ did not
- Ⓑ does not
- Ⓒ could not
- Ⓓ have not

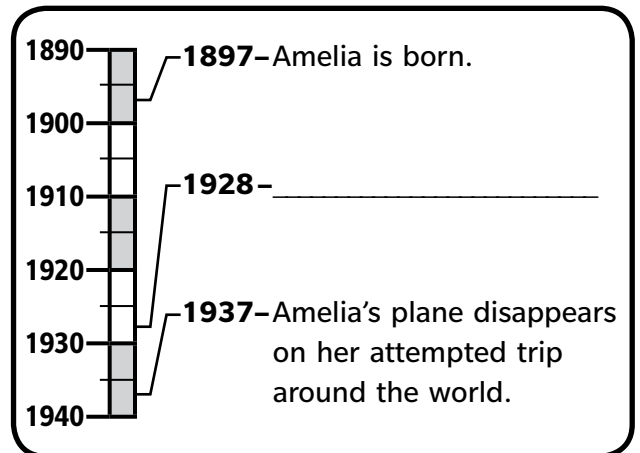
3. What makes this passage nonfiction?

- Ⓐ It has a title.
- Ⓑ It is a true story.
- Ⓒ It has paragraphs.
- Ⓓ It is about made-up characters.

4. If this passage continued, what would the next paragraph most likely be about?

- Ⓐ how planes work
- Ⓑ other famous pilots
- Ⓒ information about Amelia's childhood
- Ⓓ what might have happened to Amelia

5. Using information from the article, pick the sentence that best completes the timeline.

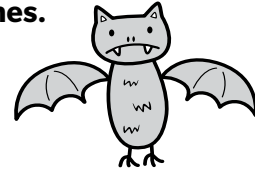


- Ⓐ Amelia is the pilot of a plane that flies across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Ⓑ Amelia is the pilot of a plane that flies across the Pacific Ocean.
- Ⓒ Amelia is a passenger on a plane that flies across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Ⓓ Amelia is a passenger on a plane that flies across the Pacific Ocean.

SECTION 2: READING COMPREHENSION (Multiple-Choice and Constructed Response)

DIRECTIONS: Read the folktale below. Then read each question that follows the folktale. For questions 6-9, choose the best answer to each question. Fill in the circle for the answer you have chosen. For question 10, write your answer on the blank lines.

Why Bat Is Lonely



(1) Did you ever wonder why bats fly only at night and birds fly during the day? This American Indian folktale offers one explanation.

(2) A long time ago, there was a great war between the mammals that lived on land and the birds that flew in the air. Most of the animals had no trouble choosing sides. However, Bat was not sure where he belonged. Like most of the mammals, he was covered in fur. But, like the birds, he had wings and could fly.

(3) Bat had an idea. He decided to choose the side that looked more likely to win. He observed the fighting and saw that there were more birds than mammals. The birds seemed to have an advantage: They could swoop down and attack. So Bat made his decision.

(4) "I am on your side," he promised his feathered friends. He huddled with them and made battle plans. The next day, Bat flew with the birds and attacked the mammals. The birds won, and Bat was pleased.

(5) But the next day, heavy rains fell. Terrible winds whipped through the skies. The birds tried to attack the mammals, but they were unsuccessful. The winds blew the birds off course, and the rain made it hard for them to see. The weather did not bother the mammals. They fought bravely and won the day's battle.

(6) Bat began to rethink his decision. That night, he left the birds to join the mammals.

(7) "I am on your side," he told them. The next day, he fought with the mammals.

(8) Over and over, Bat changed his mind. Whenever the birds were winning, he joined the birds. And whenever the mammals were winning, he joined their side. After a while, the animals grew tired of fighting, and they began to make peace. They had noticed how Bat kept changing sides. To punish Bat, they decided that he would not be allowed to have any friends. He would have to fly at night, when all the other animals were asleep.

6. Why did Bat keep changing sides in the war?

- Ⓐ He got angry at the birds.
- Ⓑ His best friend was a mammal.
- Ⓒ He wanted to be on the winning side.
- Ⓓ He thought the mammals were being unfair.

7. What does Bat learn a lesson about?

- Ⓐ sharing Ⓑ stealing Ⓒ loyalty Ⓓ strength

8. Read this sentence from paragraph 3:

He observed the fighting and saw that there were more birds than mammals.

Which is a synonym for observed?

- Ⓐ guessed Ⓒ helped
- Ⓑ watched Ⓓ understood

9. What does this passage try to explain?

- Ⓐ why bats fly by themselves at night
- Ⓑ why bats are more like birds than mammals
- Ⓒ why bats are more like mammals than birds
- Ⓓ why bats look like both birds and mammals

10. Why was Bat unsure about which side he belonged on? Write your answer below.

SECTION 3: READING COMPREHENSION (Multiple-Choice and Constructed Response)

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage below. Then read each question that follows the passage. For questions 11-14, choose the best answer to each question. Fill in the circle for the answer you have chosen. For question 15, write your answer on the blank lines.

Bats All, Folks!



(1) It's time to stop fearing bats! They aren't the monsters many people think they are. In fact, lots of people count on bats.

(2) Bats help farmers in the United States. In Texas, for example, Brazilian free-tailed bats eat about 2 million pounds of insects a night. That means there are far fewer insects eating up farmers' crops.

(3) "A bat can eat twice its weight in insects a night," says bat expert Sybill Amelon. "If bats were wiped out completely, we would be drowning in insects."

(4) Bats eat insects that prey on important crops, including peaches, bananas, and corn.

(5) "So many foods we eat depend on bats,"

says Muriel Kremb, another bat expert.

(6) Bats face a number of problems these days. Several species are endangered. In some areas, people enter caves in which bats hibernate and wake them from their winter rest. In other areas, people dump their garbage in the caves where bats live.

(7) Now humans are making an effort to help bats. They are cleaning up the caves. Some people have even built artificial, or human-made, caves where bats can live and be left alone. In Florida, bat experts bring bats to a library to meet kids and adults! It's just one way for people to learn that these creatures are really gentle—and important to our world!

11. Why did the author most likely write this passage?

- Ⓐ to persuade people that bats are not bad
- Ⓑ to inform people that bats are mammals
- Ⓒ to entertain people with a story about bats
- Ⓓ to educate people about how bats migrate

12. What effect do bats have on farmers' crops?

- Ⓐ Bats eat the crops.
- Ⓑ Bats annoy the farmers.
- Ⓒ Bats help protect the crops.
- Ⓓ Bats ruin peaches, bananas, and corn.

13. Read this sentence from paragraph 6:

In some areas, people enter caves in which bats hibernate and wake them from their winter rest.

What does hibernate most likely mean in this sentence?

- Ⓐ store food
- Ⓑ fly away
- Ⓒ hide from enemies
- Ⓓ sleep all winter

14. How are humans helping bats?

- Ⓐ They are killing insects.
- Ⓑ They are building artificial caves for them.
- Ⓒ They are waking them from hibernation.
- Ⓓ They are dumping garbage in the bats' caves.

15. Think about the two passages about bats that you just read. How are they the same? How are they different?

Scholastic News

Reading Skills Practice Test

About This Test

Our popular Reading Skills Practice Tests reflect the content of the high-stakes standardized tests you and your students face each year. We have studied released test items from many states, including the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), the New York State Testing Program, the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK), the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), and the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-Series II.

Our Reading Skills Practice Tests for 2012-13 offer the following:

- reading passages with multiple paragraphs, similar to the ones students tackle on state tests
- a wide variety of reading-passage genres, including narrative fiction, folktales, poetry, and expository nonfiction (both descriptive and how-to)
- challenging comprehension questions, including items that test study and organizational skills by asking students to complete idea webs, summaries, diagrams, lists, and charts
- constructed-response items, including those that ask students to compare two texts

Why Use This Test?

Our practice test can help you and your class in these ways:

As practice: Most of your students take standardized reading tests. Our practice tests focus on the skills they will be expected to demonstrate. (See the annotated answer guide on the right for a detailed list of skills.)

As individualized instruction: A student's performance on the practice test can help you detect strengths and weaknesses. Use the annotated answer guide to pinpoint the types of questions a student missed, then provide more practice and instruction in those areas.

As a curriculum tool: Even if test preparation is not a big concern, you can use our passages and questions for whole-class and small-group instruction.

Keep in mind that our practice tests are not standardized. They should not be used to determine grade level, to compare one student's performance with that of others, or to evaluate a teacher's abilities.

Annotated Answers

SECTION 1

1. B (summarizing)
2. A (understanding language)
3. B (understanding genre)
4. D (making predictions)
5. C (recalling details/interpreting visual text)

SECTION 2:

6. C (recalling details)
7. C (drawing conclusions)
8. B (vocabulary)
9. A (summarizing)
10. **Bat had fur like a mammal but he had wings and could fly like a bird.** (analyzing)

SECTION 3:

11. A (author's purpose)
12. C (cause-effect)
13. D (vocabulary)
14. B (recalling details)
15. **The first passage, "Why Bat is Lonely," is a folktale. It is a made-up story with talking animals, which aims to tell why bats fly alone at night. The second passage, "Bats All, Folks," is nonfiction. It contains facts about why bats are important and how people are trying to protect bats.** (comparing and contrasting two texts on the same topic)

