VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

RELEASED TEST

GRADE 4 READING

2010 English Standards of Learning

Released Spring 2015

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General Information

- 1. The images of the reading passages and questions in this document reflect how they appear in the online version of the test.
- 2. Presentation of the passages and questions:

In the online version of the test-

- the reading passage is presented first on the left side of the screen. On subsequent screens, the passage remains on the left while questions associated with the passage are presented on the right.
- students may navigate through the passage while answering the questions associated with the passage.

In this document-

• the reading passage is presented on the left side of the page. On subsequent pages, the questions associated with the passage are presented on the right, but there is not a static image of any part of the passage on the left; there is text that reads: In the online version of the test, the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen.

SAMPLE A

Aunt Jackie's Ring

- For Mary's birthday, her aunt gave her a ring that was more than 100 years old. "Take good care of it," her aunt warned. She did just that until one day Mary looked down at her hand and noticed the ring was gone.
- Aunt Jackie is going to be so disappointed in me, thought Mary.

 Then Mary remembered she put the ring in her pocket when she washed her hands at the sink. Thank goodness! Mary said to herself. After that, she never took off Aunt Jackie's ring again.

This story is mostly about -

- A a normal day
- B Mary's aunt
- C a special ring
- D Mary's birthday

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question. Click on the correct answers.

SAMPLE B

Which two words are synonyms of ordinary?

One of Mario's toy cars is very rare, while the other one is ordinary.

regular
easy
popular
common
interesting

Summer Adventures

- Ben and his best friend Eli jumped on their bicycles after school. As they rode down the sidewalk, they talked about their summer plans.
- "One more week until summer vacation!" Ben yelled.
- "I can't wait to hang out in the tree house and go to the swimming pool with you," Eli answered. "I sure hope the two weeks I have to spend with my cousin go by fast," he added.
- Ben squeezed the brakes and came to a screeching halt. "I completely forgot you will be gone for two weeks," he said. Now, instead of feeling excited about the summer, Ben felt gloomy.
- The last week of school went by quickly, and soon enough, Eli was at his cousin's house. Ben feared the next fourteen days would creep by slowly. He thought about all the adventures Eli and he had planned. Instead, Ben watched TV and read comic books. This was not the summer he had thought it would be.
- When Ben's mother saw him sulking, she offered a suggestion.
 "Mrs. Chandler was telling me about an adventure camp that starts in two days. Her son Mark is signed up to go. Why don't you join too? I think you would have a good time, and you would get some fresh air."
- Being outside did sound like a good idea. Also, Mark went to the same school as Ben. Although they did not know each other very well, at least Ben would see a familiar face at camp. Days later he was at the Winding River Adventure Day Camp. He spotted Mark and walked over to him.

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.



8 "Hi. I was just looking at the list of activities to choose from," Mark said. "I think I'm going to try hiking, fishing, and canoeing." Ben had no time to carefully consider his choices, but he decided that fishing would be a good activity to try first. So he and Mark walked over to the fishing group. They grabbed their gear and followed the leader to the pond. After the first lesson, Ben cast his line into the water and caught a small fish. "You're a natural at this," the leader said. 11 Ben beamed. Maybe this summer won't be so bad after all, he thought. 12 Each day at camp brought a new adventure for the two boys. However, they enjoyed fishing the most, and both learned guickly. "It looks like you made a new friend," Ben's mother said one day. "Yeah, Mark has become a good friend," Ben said. Then he paused. "I hope Eli will like him too." "I'm sure everything will work out fine," replied his mother. Before Ben knew it, the two weeks had zoomed by, and Eli was home again. "Did you have a good time with your cousin?" Ben asked his best friend. "It was great," Eli began. "My cousin and I went camping. He has a small pond on his farm where we set up our tents. We really enjoyed spending time outside."

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.



- "That sounds fun!" Ben said. "I've been fishing at summer camp with a kid from school named Mark," Ben explained.
- 20 "Hey, I have an idea," Eli replied. "Maybe we can go to the lake this weekend. I'll ask my parents if they can take us, and we can invite Mark to go along."
- Ben was relieved when Eli suggested the three boys go to the lake together. They may have a lot in common after all. One thing seemed to be certain: together they would have many exciting summer adventures!

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Which question is answered in paragraph 5?

- A What had Ben and Eli planned for the summer?
- B Where is Eli after the last week of school?
- C Who helps Ben solve his problem?
- D Where do Ben and Eli go to school?

Based on paragraph 6, Ben's mother may best be described as —

- A honest
- B trusting
- O C grateful
- O D caring

A student asks this question after reading the story.

What activity do Ben and Mark choose first?

Which paragraph answers this question?

- O A 7
- O B 8
- OC9
- O D 12

Eli shows he wants to be Mark's friend by -

- A suggesting that Mark be invited to the lake
- B saying that he and Mark have many things in common
- C asking to join Mark and Ben at summer camp next year
- D asking Mark and Ben to join him when he visits his cousin

Ben agrees to go to camp because he -

- A wants to make his mom happy
- B likes swimming at the pool
- C wants to meet new people from his school
- D thinks he will enjoy being outdoors

Which sentence best supports the idea that Ben is excited about summer vacation at the beginning of the story?

- A He talks to his mother about going to a summer camp.
- B He speaks to a friend about going to a nearby pond.
- C He decides that he would like to go hiking.
- D He mentions the length of time left in the school year.

Once summer is over, the three boys will most likely —

- A learn about other camping activities
- B look for other day camps in their area
- C play together during the school year
- D make more friends at their school

Life in Ancient Egypt

Thousands of years ago, much of life in Egypt was shaped by its environment. People who lived in this area learned to adapt to the hot weather and their surroundings. These conditions determined how homes were built, how people dressed, and what foods people ate.

Mud Houses

The locations and designs of houses were determined by both the Nile River and the hot temperatures. Homes were usually built on high spots near the

high spots near the
Nile River to keep them
safe from rising waters. In
addition, the houses were
made of mud bricks. Mud
kept the houses cool from
the soaring temperatures.
The insides of the houses
were comfortable too
because small windows
would not allow much heat
to come inside.



Directions: Read the article and answer the questions that follow.



People spent a great deal of time on the flat rooftops of their houses. Roofs provided extra storage space and also a great place for family gatherings. During the summertime, it was common to sleep on the roofs, which were cooler than the insides of homes.

Clothing and Hair

- 4 Most ancient Egyptians spent much of their time outdoors. To stay
- cool in the hot sun, men and women often wore clothes called tunics. This type of clothing looked like a long robe and was made out of a thin, lightweight fabric. The white color of the tunics also helped reflect the hot sun.
- Another way that men and women stayed cool was by keeping their hair very short or even shaving their heads. However, for special events, they wore wigs. The wigs also protected people's heads from the harsh sun.



Directions: Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

Egyptian Diet

Different types of foods, such as grains, fruits, and vegetables, grew well in the hot climate. Grains were used in making breads, cakes, and desserts and became the main part of the daily diet. Fruits and vegetables, such as lettuce, beans, figs, grapes, and cucumbers, were also popular foods in Egypt. In addition, people often ate fish. The Nile River and the surrounding seas provided a variety of fish to the Egyptians and were an

important part of their diet.
 Many interesting facts have been discovered about ancient Egyptians. They adapted very

well to the environment, and their culture became one of the greatest in history.



Directions: Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

Mud kept the houses cool from the soaring temperatures.

Which word has the same meaning as <u>soaring</u> in this sentence?

- A damaging
- B crashing
- C floating
- O D rising

Which question is answered in the section titled "Clothing and Hair"?

- A How were the hairstyles of Egyptian men and women alike?
- B What was the most popular style of clothing for Egyptian boys and girls?
- C How often did Egyptians have to shave their heads?
- D What type of tunic was worn during special Egyptian celebrations?

What is the main idea of paragraph 6?

- A The Egyptians fished from the surrounding seas and the Nile River.
- B The Egyptians ate many types of foods from their region.
- C Different crops grew well in the hot climate of Egypt.
- D Fruits and vegetables were a favorite food for people in Egypt.

Which of these best describes the roof of an ancient Egyptian home?

- A It was very steep.
- B It was white to reflect the sun.
- C It was used for many purposes.
- D It was made from expensive materials.

Information from the article shows that the ancient Egyptians were —

- A lucky
- B faithful
- O C clever
- D gentle

Which sentence about this article is a fact?

- A Egyptian homes took a long time to build.
- B The Egyptians ate foods such as beans and cucumbers.
- C Egyptian clothing was easy to make.
- D The Egyptians developed the greatest culture in history.

A student makes these notes about the article.

_	Ways Egyptians Kept Cool
•	Wore lightweight clothing
•	Wore short hair
•	Used mud bricks for houses
,	

Which of these belongs on the blank line?

- A Built houses on high ground
- B Stayed indoors most of the day
- C Wore wigs on their heads
- D Built small windows in houses

Which sentence is most likely true about the ancient Egyptians?

- A They enjoyed a healthy diet.
- B They worried about their clothing.
- C They avoided work that was difficult.
- D They liked food from distant countries.

Harrison Elementary Spring Fundraisers

From the first graders' day at the zoo to the fifth graders' tour of the downtown art museum, Harrison students look forward to spring field trips each year. Help make these exciting experiences possible by taking part in these school fundraisers.

Share a Harrison Hunger-Buster

What is your favorite food? Maybe it's your mother's chocolate chip cookies or your uncle's famous French toast. Share your recipe with the students, teachers, and parents in the Harrison community.



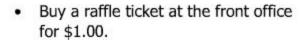
- Ask relatives and friends for a recipe for the school cookbook, Harrison Hunger-Busters.
- Bring the recipe to Mrs. Voltz in the front office either before or after school by February 15.
- Buy a cookbook for \$4.50 to see your friends' recipes. We will announce the beginning of the sale when the cookbooks arrive. Your family will surely enjoy giving these delicious dishes a try.

Directions: Read the flier and answer the questions that follow.



Try Your Luck in a Raffle

Mark your calendars for the spring raffle! Teddy bears, posters, games, stickers, and pencils are just some of the prizes for the <u>lucky</u> winners.





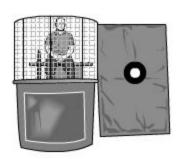
 The winners will be announced at the end of the day on March 21. Good luck!

Celebrate at the School Fair

Saturday, May 2

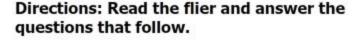
10:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

Join family and friends on the field behind the playground for a fun-filled day. Race down the gigantic slide, jump around the moon bounce, or test your skills at one of the many exciting games. This year there will be a new activity—the dunking booth! Hit the target to drop the principal into a



pool of water. Don't forget to stop by one of the food stands for delicious snacks and drinks. Tickets for food and rides will sell for 50 cents each.

With everyone's help, we can make the Harrison fundraisers and field trips successful!



Read this sentence from the flier.

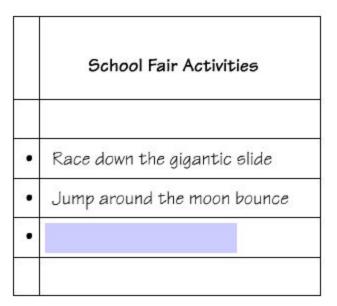
Teddy bears, posters, games, stickers, and pencils are just some of the prizes for the lucky winners.

In which word does $-\underline{y}$ mean the same as it does in lucky?

- A empty
- B tiny
- C thirsty
- O D cozy

Directions: Click and drag the correct answer to the shaded area.

Complete this list of school fair activities.



Explore the playground

Play a game

Swim in the pool

Run in the field

Money earned during the fundraisers will be used to pay for —

- A prizes for the winners
- B field trips for students
- C cookbooks for students
- D food at the school fair

The principal will sit in the dunking booth most likely because he wants to —

- A help sell more tickets
- B see the students throw
- O C show he can swim
- D make students laugh

What is the main reason the author wrote the flier?

- A To offer ways that students can earn money after school
- B To persuade students to send in recipes for a school cookbook
- C To amuse students with some ideas for a school fair
- D To tell students about future school events

Directions: Click on the correct answer.

Which sentence about the flier is an opinion?

The recipes will be enjoyed by many people.

The raffle winners will receive prizes.

The cookbooks will be sold at a later date.

The school fair will have a new activity.

The raffle tickets will be sold at the front office.

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question.

Read this sentence.

The factory will manufacture new tractors and other farm machines.

In this sentence, the word manufacture means —

- A order
- B choose
- O C trade
- O D build

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question.

In which sentence is the underlined word used correctly?

- A My new shirt has for large buttons.
- B The rusted hinges make this door <u>creek</u>.
- C She tied a cloth belt around her waste.
- D This is the main street in our town.

Directions: You do not need to read a passage to answer the question. Read and answer the question. Click on the correct shaded area.

Select the meaning of rich as used in this sentence.

I could barely finish my slice of that <u>rich</u> chocolate cake.

rich adj. 1. Fortunate. 2. Expensive. 3. Flavorful. 4. Bright. 5. Funny.

A First-Place Friend

- One morning two monkey friends named Max and Sidney were swinging through the leafy jungle. They decided to race up an umbrella tree, and Max easily won the contest. When Sidney finally caught up, he felt a stab of jealousy.
- "You're the winner," Sidney declared with a sigh.
- "I've been practicing," Max admitted shyly.
- Down below, Alligator floated in the river, watching the monkeys with hungry eyes. How can I catch one of them? Suddenly, Alligator had an idea.
- "Monkeys!" Alligator shrieked. "You both climb well, but who can do the most somersaults? It's a much harder trick to spin around on the branches."
- Sidney puffed out his chest and stood as tall as he could. "I can!" he announced in a determined voice. A second later, the two monkeys began spinning around like furry wheels. Sidney tumbled over three times, but Max did four somersaults.
- "You won again," Sidney muttered, and his head drooped.
- "I practiced my somersaults too," Max told him quietly.
- Down below, Alligator crept closer. "You both somersault well, but who can walk across that long, skinny branch above me?" she challenged. "That is the hardest trick of all."

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.





10 Max stared at the skinny branch and at Alligator's big jaws. Her sharp teeth made his heart pound. "That trick is too dangerous," Max replied. 11 "I'm not afraid to try!" Sidney bragged. His mind was set on winning this contest. This time he'd be the best! 12 Carefully, Sidney made his way through the tree branches and stepped onto the skinny branch like a tightrope walker. The branch bowed under his weight, but he used his tail as a safety rope and held on tightly. 13 Step by step, Sidney slowly made his way across the branch. He'd almost reached the end when a gust of wind shook him. Sidney's foot slipped, and he started to tumble down, bouncing off the branches. 14 "Help me!" cried Sidney, as Alligator opened her enormous jaws. 15 In a flash, Max jumped over and reached out to catch Sidney. A moment later, Alligator's jaws snapped shut, but she only caught a mouthful of air. "Thank you," replied Sidney as he rested safely on a branch with Max. All at once, Sidney realized that Alligator wanted him to fall, and Sidney felt foolish. He'd been so busy trying to beat Max, he hadn't been careful. 17 "No more tricks," Sidney informed Alligator. "It is only your hungry stomach that likes our contests." 18 "No, no," argued Alligator. "I was just yawning. Why don't you see

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.



who can do the most cartwheels?" she suggested sweetly.

- "I have a much better idea," replied Sidney. "We'll show you who can climb the highest."
- "Yes!" laughed Max, and he shot into the treetop. Sidney followed behind him, and this time, Sidney didn't mind if Max took first place. In fact, he was truly glad he had a friend who was both speedy and smart!

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Read paragraph 7.

"You won again," Sidney muttered, and his head drooped.

Which sentence tells why Sidney is acting this way?

- A Sidney plans to have another contest.
- B Sidney begins to fear for his safety.
- C Max keeps his pride hidden from Sidney.
- D Max beats Sidney in a somersault contest.

Read these sentences from paragraph 18.

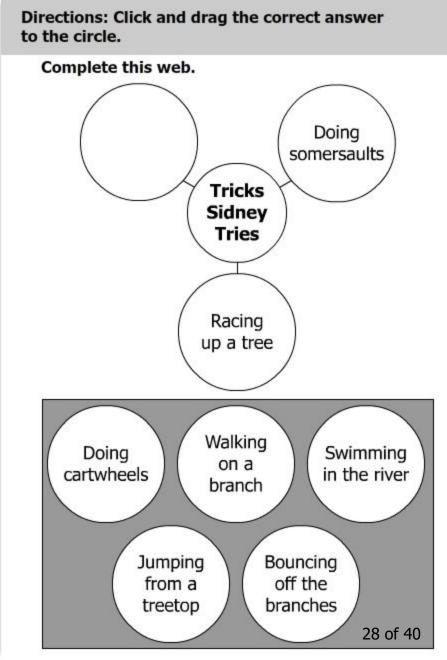
"No, no," argued Alligator. "I was just yawning."

The author includes this information to show that Alligator is —

- A feeling tired
- B waiting
- C feeling lazy
- D lying

Which sentence about the story best shows that Max is careful?

- A Max tells Sidney that one of the tricks is too dangerous.
- B Max admits to Sidney that he practices the tricks.
- C Max holds Sidney to keep him from falling off the branch.
- D Max speaks quietly to Sidney after winning many contests.



Which lesson does Sidney learn in the story?

- A Friendship is more important than winning.
- B Practicing can lead to winning contests.
- C Tricks should only be done in calm weather.
- D Being friendly means saying kind words.

Which detail about the setting is most important to the story?

- A A tree branch hangs above a river.
- B The weather stays warm in the jungle.
- C Umbrella trees have many branches.
- D The force of the wind can be very strong.

Band of Thieves

- A band of thieves I spied tonight,
- 2 Their silver fur in silver light
- 3 Winked at the moon as if to say—
- 4 Shhh! Quiet! Don't give us away!
- 5 The leader wore a thief's disguise,
- 6 A mask of black around her eyes.
- 7 Not far behind, her young did trail—
- 8 Each with a mask and bushy tail.
- 9 And as they whisked across our grass
- 10 I puzzled at them through the glass.
- I wondered what had brought them here—
- 12 Money? Jewels? Expensive gear?
- 13 Turns out, these bandits on all fours
- 14 Were treasure-hunting out-of-doors!
- 15 They'd come to snack on my dog's kibble—
- 16 To satisfy a midnight nibble!

Directions: Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

Based on lines 1–4 of the poem, which sentence is correct?

- A The thieves are having trouble seeing.
- B The thieves are stealing silver objects.
- C The light of the moon is shining on the thieves.
- D The noise outside is making the thieves nervous.

The author includes lines 7 and 8 to -

- A show that the thieves are animals
- B explain why the thieves are quiet
- C describe the feelings of the characters
- D give reasons the young are behind the leader

Which of these are the thieves trying to find?

- A A place to hide
- B A place to rest
- C Some food to eat
- D Some jewels to steal

What is the speaker doing in the poem?

- A Feeding the dog
- B Chasing animals
- C Sitting on the grass
- D Watching from inside

Popcorn, the Perfect Snack

- Pop! Pop-pop! Yum! Fresh popcorn is one of the most popular foods when it comes to watching a movie or a ball game. Delicious and good for people's health, popcorn is inexpensive and easy to make. Popcorn may just be the perfect snack.
- Not all corn pops. Corn kernels contain a tiny amount of water. When the kernel is heated, the water turns to steam. In regular corn, the steam escapes through the outside cover, or skin. In popcorn, the skin of each kernel is sealed. When popcorn kernels are heated, the steam that builds up inside is trapped. Pressure builds up until . . . pop! The kernel explodes into the fluffy white treat called popcorn.
- Popcorn has been around for thousands of years. In fact, researchers have found popcorn that is more than 5,600 years old. Back then people popped the kernels by putting them on red-hot stones near a fire. Popcorn was not always eaten whole as it is now. Instead, people <u>crushed</u> the popcorn into a type of flour and then added water to make bread.
- For centuries American Indians popped corn in clay containers on an open fire. At the first Thanksgiving dinner, American Indians shared this tasty treat with the Pilgrims who had arrived from Europe. The Pilgrims discovered that they loved popcorn. After these newcomers learned to make popcorn in cast-iron pots, they began to pour milk and sugar on it before eating it for breakfast. Some say it was the first breakfast cereal!

Directions: Read the article and answer the questions that follow.



- The first machines that were designed to pop corn were invented around 1885. These poppers heated the corn with steam. Later, these popcorn poppers were put into small wagons. The wagons could be pulled to different places. Street vendors sold popcorn at carnivals, parks, and state fairs. People could not get enough of it!
- Soon movie theaters began selling popcorn too. This started the tradition of eating popcorn at the movies. At this time popcorn became more popular than ever. For a short time though, people began eating less popcorn. In the 1950s television was still very new. Many people stayed home to watch television instead of going to the movies. Few people owned popcorn poppers. Then microwave ovens were invented. Now popcorn is easy to make at home. Today Americans are eating more popcorn again—more than one billion pounds each year!

Directions: Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

In paragraph 3, what does crushed mean?

- A ground
- B stirred
- C baked
- O D shook

Directions: Click and drag the correct answer to the box.

Complete this cause-and-effect chart.

Cause: Effect: Steam builds up inside the popcorn kernel.

The popcorn kernel explodes.

The steam turns into water.

The steam escapes slowly.

The popcorn kernel is heated.

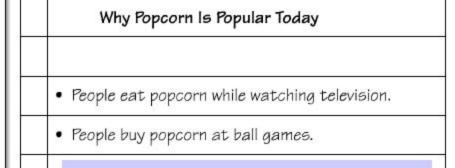
The steam becomes hotter.

Which sentence about the article is an opinion?

- A Popcorn is a snack that has a long history.
- B Popcorn kernels contain a tiny amount of water.
- C Popcorn is a snack that is easy to make at home.
- D Popcorn continues to be sold at movie theaters.

Directions: Click and drag the correct answer to the shaded area.

Complete these notes.



People sell popcorn on the streets from wagons.

People make popcorn in microwave ovens.

People have popcorn poppers in their homes.

People add popcorn to many other types of food.

People bake bread made from popcorn flour.

The main reason the author wrote this article is to —

- A suggest unusual ways to make popcorn
- B persuade readers to eat more popcorn
- C list differences between types of popcorn
- D tell readers about the history of popcorn