

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

6-8 Week Skills Assessments Developed for
Districts Using *Houghton Mifflin Reading*



GRADE 2 Theme 4

Student Name _____

DIRECTIONS: Read the story carefully. Then read each question and fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

Cockroaches Are Here to Stay

Pat Bush

The cockroach is a brown or black insect. It lives in warm, dark places. Many people think it's a household pest. This insect has six legs with three joints on each leg. Little claws on their feet help them climb walls. They have long feelers that let them know when they are close to an object. The feelers keep them from bumping into things even in the dark. The skin of a cockroach is thick and hard. This is their skeleton. It holds the insect together.

There are thousands of different kinds of cockroaches. They live in almost every part of the world. They are even found at the North and South Poles. In these very cold places they survive by moving in with humans. The cockroach looks like a common bug. But it is much more.

Cockroaches were living before dinosaurs roamed the earth. We know this because fossils of these insects have been found. Fossils are the hardened remains of animals or plants that lived long ago. The cockroach fossils that were found are almost three hundred million years old. They said hello to the dinosaurs and goodbye. They welcomed the woolly mammoths and then watched them die off.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

1. A cockroach

- A. has four legs.
- B. is a plant.
- C. is an insect.

2. How many different kinds of cockroaches are there?

- A. hundreds
- B. thousands
- C. millions

3. We know cockroaches lived before the dinosaurs because

- A. cockroach fossils were found.
- B. cockroaches look very old.
- C. cockroaches live in warm, dark places.

Why have these insects survived when other animals have not? The dinosaurs and many other animals of the ice age became extinct. They were not able to survive as the earth changed. The cockroaches did. They handled the earth's changes. They always found food and a place to live. They lived on.

One reason the cockroach has survived is its diet. They like food scraps but will eat almost anything. They eat plants and dead animals. If it is rotten and disgusting, it is a feast for them. These bugs also like paper and paste. They often make paper boxes and bags their home. Lunch is always handy. Kitchen cupboards provide snacks all day long.

The cockroach has also survived because it is quick. It can quickly get away from people or animal predators. These are fast moving bugs. They can run at speeds up to three miles an hour. That is faster than any other known living bug. This makes it very difficult to catch them. Try to step on one. It will zigzag in twenty-five directions in one second. It's even quicker than Michael Jordan. To escape their enemies, they can crawl into spaces as thin as a quarter. Their babies can zip into a thin, dime-sized crack.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

4. Why did some animals become extinct?
- A. They were too big.
 - B. They couldn't survive the earth's changes.
 - C. All animals died during the ice age.
5. Cockroaches eat
- A. plants.
 - B. dead animals.
 - C. all of the above.
6. What are two reasons cockroaches have survived for such a long time?
- A. They are brown and can climb walls.
 - B. They are household pests and live in kitchen cupboards.
 - C. They can quickly escape their enemies and eat almost anything.

This insect can do some amazing things. It can hold its breath for about forty minutes. So drowning it doesn't work. It is able to survive without food for a month. It can lose its head and live for a week. Another interesting fact is about its heart. It doesn't beat when the insect is moving. It beats when the insect is still.

The cockroach is not a common bug. It is unique. It has learned to adapt to life on earth over millions of years. In time, other animals may become extinct like the dinosaurs. But the cockroach is here to stay.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

7. Why does the author think cockroaches are amazing?

- A. This insect does things other animals can't do.
- B. This insect is interesting.
- C. This insect does not have a heart.

8. The word **unique** means

- A. not common.
- B. amazing.
- C. extinct.

9. The author's purpose for writing this article is to tell why cockroaches

- A. eat scraps.
- B. are household pests.
- C. have lived for such a long time.

10. "Cockroaches Are Here to Stay" is

- A. fiction.
- B. nonfiction.
- C. a fable.

TOTAL SCORE: ____/10

Rewrite each sentence. Replace the underlined word or words with the pronouns **she**, **he**, **it**, or **they**. Write each new sentence on the line provided.

1. Mrs. Toppel and the students learned safety tips at school.

2. Claire wrote her report about a star.

3. Gloria helped Officer Buckle in the auditorium.

Read the sentences below. Decide who or what owns something. Rewrite the underlined words to show ownership.

4. The antennae of the ant help it find food.

5. The home of the insect is under the crack in the sidewalk.

6. Strong ants can lift the body of a caterpillar.

7. Carpenter ants hatch from the cocoons of larvae.

Read each sentence. Decide if the underlined word should end with **-s'** or **-s**. Write the correct word and ending on the line.

8. Animals

Fox, Deer, and Bear played on the _____ team.

9. teams

The two _____ goals were made from goalposts on the field.

10. mens

The _____ softball team lost the game in the final inning.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

DIRECTIONS: Read all of the sentences. Decide which one of the underlined words is misspelled. Then fill in the bubble next to the answer.

1. A. The tired child began to whine during lunch.
 - B. Wen will the cake be ready to frost?
 - C. A loud thump was heard in the kitchen.
 - D. The sailor made a map to guide other seamen.
2. A. If you buy fish at the market, make sure it is fresh.
 - B. We wrote our ideas on a large sheet of chart paper.
 - C. It took the group hours to reach the campsite.
 - D. The wood carver used a charp tool to create the design.
3. A. Can you look into the future and predict what will happen?
 - B. The owner sold the car for a fraction of what it was worth.
 - C. This section of the book is my favorite part.
 - D. Try to capchur the butterfly with this special net.
4. A. The magician made the rabbit vanish before our eyes.
 - B. A smart business person is usually successful.
 - C. Because it was such a worm day, we decided to go swimming.
 - D. The pencil is too short to use.
5. A. The student walked to the staje to receive his reward.
 - B. The girl won the second-grade, long jump contest.
 - C. They sat on the edge of the lake and watched the sunset.
 - D. The boy gaspd when he saw the shiny, new bicycle.

6. A. I need a stamp to mail the letter.
- B. The tragedy was an important momend in history.
- C. The band began the concert with their favorite song.
- D. Count the votes and record them at the principal's office.
7. A. Mom thinks the common housefly is very annoying.
- B. We sat on a blanket and looked at the fireworks.
- C. Did you bring the bat and ball for the game?
- D. The prince invited everyone in the kindom to his castle.
8. A. We saw all types of bunnies at the state fair.
- B. Nobody lives in that old, broken-down house.
- C. Would you like a baked potato or frys?
- D. The shopkeeper displayed his most expensive watches in a locked case.
9. A. It's relaxing to sit on my porch and read a book.
- B. This baby chick will become a rooster someday.
- C. Hundreds of turtles hatch on the beach every night.
- D. He hurt his hand trying to cach the ball.
10. A. See if you can bloe out all of the candles on your cake.
- B. He stubbed his toe on the sidewalk.
- C. We waited while they loaded the truck with lumber.
- D. I would like to learn more about the Indians' way of life.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

PART 1 — Antonyms

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Choose the word that means the **opposite** of the underlined word. Then fill in the bubble next to the word you have chosen.

1. Doing your homework gives you an advantage for getting good grades.
 - A. imagination
 - B. benefit
 - C. disadvantage
 - D. conservation

2. The referee called a five-yard penalty on the football team.
 - A. reward
 - B. officer
 - C. attention
 - D. punishment

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Read and answer the question. Fill in the bubble next to the answer you have chosen.

3. Please hold these books while I dust the shelves.

In which sentence is the word hold used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?

 - A. The girl tried to hold her anger by not saying what she was thinking.
 - B. The baby wanted his mother to hold him.
 - C. Try to hold the noise down while I'm reading my book.
 - D. Next week, we will hold an election for our class president.

4. The wet cement turned hard in just a few hours.

In which sentence is the word hard used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?

 - A. I like hard candy better than soft chocolate.
 - B. It was hard to keep from telling my sister's secret.
 - C. The clown tried extra hard to make the grumpy child laugh.
 - D. There are no hard and fast rules about how to clean your room.

PART 3 — Context Meaning

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Using context, choose the word that means the **same**, or **about the same**, as the underlined word. Then fill in the bubble next to the word you have chosen.

5. The miner was excited when he discovered there was gold on his land.
 - A. jeered
 - B. escaped
 - C. learned
 - D. accepted

6. The pumpkin was so enormous that they couldn't get it through the door.
 - A. tiny
 - B. huge
 - C. guarded
 - D. stiff

7. Fans applauded and yelled as the ball dropped in the basket.
 - A. stated
 - B. fastened
 - C. swiveled
 - D. clapped

PART 4 — Synonyms

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Choose the word that means the **same**, or **about the same**, as the underlined word. Then fill in the bubble next to the word you have chosen.

8. Whose side of the argument did you decide to take?
 - A. verse
 - B. quarrel
 - C. accident
 - D. banner

9. Everyone obeyed the king's commands.
 - A. stares
 - B. expressions
 - C. lyrics
 - D. instructions

10. The audience cheered after the play was over.
 - A. curator
 - B. colonies
 - C. listeners
 - D. weaver

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Passage #1

Refer to “General Directions for **One-Minute** Administration of Reading Passages.”

Say these specific directions to the student:

When I say “Begin,” start reading aloud at the top of this page. Read across the page (DEMONSTRATE BY POINTING). Try to read each word. If you come to a word you don’t know, I will say the word for you. Read as quickly and accurately as you can, but do not read SO fast that you make mistakes. Do your best reading.

People come from far away to visit a 8
 park in the desert. This area has trees that 17
 have turned into stone. These tree fossils 24
 lay scattered on the sandy ground. It is an 33
 amazing sight to see. The red, blue, green, 41
 and yellow remains of the trees sparkle in 49
 the sun. 51
 How did the trees turn into stone? 58
 Why do the fossils have different colors? 65
 Long ago the trees died. They fell to the 74
 ground. When the wind blew, sand and dirt 82
 covered the trees. Each time it rained, 89
 minerals dissolved in the soil. Rain helped 96
 the minerals seep into the dead trees. 103
 The minerals were different colors. 108
 The water evaporated in the hot sun. 115
 The minerals stayed in the trees. They filled 123
 the cracks of the trees’ trunks and branches. 131
 The wood rotted away. The minerals had 138
 replaced the wood. The trees had turned into 146
 fossils that were shaped just like the trees. 154
 Some are small. Others are huge. 160
 Laws help preserve this park for future 167
 visitors. 168

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING

sky (/) word read incorrectly
 blue ^ sky (^) inserted word
 (□) after the last word read

Comments:

FLUENCY SCORE

Number of Words Read Per Minute: _____
 Number of Errors: — _____

Number of Words Read Correctly: _____

Passing Criterion (50th %ile) = 85

Errors include: 1) words read incorrectly; 2) words left out or inserted; 3) mispronounced words; 4) dropped endings or sounds; and 5) reversals. Self-corrections and word repetitions are NOT marked as errors.

Passage #2

Refer to “General Directions for **One-Minute** Administration of Reading Passages.”

Say these specific directions to the student:

When I say “Begin,” start reading aloud at the top of this page. Read across the page (DEMONSTRATE BY POINTING). Try to read each word. If you come to a word you don’t know, I will say the word for you. Read as quickly and accurately as you can, but do not read SO fast that you make mistakes. Do your best reading.

During the summer, Tom and his father 7
 took long walks. They stopped to rest under 15
 an elm tree on warm days. The huge tree 24
 stood beside a narrow river. This was their 32
 favorite resting spot. Tom would remove his 39
 sandals and dangle his feet in the cool water. 48
 One day, Tom was gazing at rocks and 56
 pebbles in the mud. He noticed something 63
 strange. It was a rock with an unusual 71
 pattern. He quickly picked it up and asked 79
 his father, “What is this? It looks like the 88
 drawing of a skeleton.” 92
 “You have found an animal fossil,” replied 99
 his father. “A fossil is what’s left of a plant or 110
 animal that lived long ago.” 115
 “How did the animal become a fossil?” 122
 Tom asked. 124
 “When it died, the animal’s body was 131
 trapped in the soil. It turned into the stone 140
 you found. You might enjoy collecting fossils,” 147
 said Tom’s father. “Would you like to learn 155
 more about them? I know several books you 163
 could read.” 165
 Tom read the books. He began to look for 174
 more fossils. Soon he had eight in his precious 183
 collection. 184

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING

sky (/) word read incorrectly
 blue ^ sky (^) inserted word
 (□) after the last word read

Comments:

FLUENCY SCORE

Number of Words Read Per Minute: _____
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Expository Writing Prompt

Writing Situation: You have been chosen to be “Student of the Month” at your school.

Purpose: To tell about yourself

Audience: Readers of the school newspaper

Writing Directions: Write a news article about yourself. Tell who you are, some important facts about yourself, and why you think you were chosen as the “Student of the Month.” Make an idea web before you write your news article.

Student Checklist:

Revising
<p>_____ Do you have a headline that makes the reader want to know more?</p> <p>_____ Does your article begin in an exciting way?</p> <p>_____ Did you tell important facts about yourself?</p> <p>_____ Did you include details about yourself that interest the readers?</p> <p>_____ Do you have complete sentences?</p>
Proofreading
<p>_____ Did you capitalize proper nouns and the beginnings of sentences?</p> <p>_____ Did you end all sentences with the correct punctuation?</p> <p>_____ Did you spell all words correctly?</p> <p>_____ Did you indent paragraphs?</p>

Conventions Score: _____ /4 Genre Score: _____ /4 Writing Traits Score: _____ /4	TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: _____ /4
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Sixth Edition

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