


# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET



6-8 Week  
**S**kills  
Assessments

Developed for Districts  
Using *Open Court Reading 2002*

**G** **R** **A** **D** **E** **4**

**Unit 6**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

## A Four-Hundred-Year-Old Mystery

*Ann Feetham*

“It’s a daughter!” Ananias Dare shouted proudly from the door of his two-room log house. “My Eleanor has given birth to a baby girl!”

The men were busy felling trees and clearing thick underbrush around their village. They stopped working and cheered. A smiling woman stepped outside into the bright sunlight. She had assisted the young mother throughout her labor. She was holding a tiny bundle in her arms.

John White, governor and leader of the group, hurried forward. He began pumping young Ananias’s hand vigorously. The governor slapped him on the back. “My granddaughter is the first English babe to be born in this great New World. What will be her name?”

“We will call her Virginia,” the new father said. Then he beamed.

“Ah, it’s fitting that she should bear the name of our village, the city of Raleigh at Virginia,” the grandfather agreed.

There was much merrymaking that day. Virginia’s birth on August 18, 1587, was considered a good omen. The 117 men, women, and children had recently arrived in America. Just a few weeks before, they had come ashore at Roanoke Island off the North Carolina coast. Later, they had moved cautiously inland. They were awed by their new surroundings.

The soil was fertile. The thick forests were rich with timber. Fruits and berries grew abundantly in the woods. There were deer, foxes, rabbits, wild turkeys, and other game. There were also many kinds of fish in the rivers and streams.

When the settlers came upon Fort Raleigh, it was abandoned. It had been the site of an earlier unsuccessful colony. The settlers decided to live there. Right away, the men began repairing the dilapidated log houses. They also raised new buildings. The women busied themselves setting up housekeeping. The children helped in any way they could.

The only other people living in America at that time were scattered Native-American tribes. Not all of them were friendly. Some tribes were frightened of the strange white people who had arrived in “white-winged ships.” But the Croatoans were different. They were friendly. They helped the settlers in many ways.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

1. Why was Virginia Dare's birth considered a good *omen*, meaning a sign or prophecy, for the colonists?
  - A. The women in the colony were happy to have a new, baby boy.
  - B. It signified the birth or beginning of the colonists' new life in Virginia.
  - C. Governor White had a new daughter.
  - D. The birth of the child meant the other children would have a new playmate.
  
2. What is the **main** reason the colonists decided to settle on Roanoke Island?
  - A. It had good soil, abundant food, and natural resources.
  - B. They were tired of traveling and thought the land was beautiful.
  - C. Governor White owned the land.
  - D. They would be safe from pirates.
  
3. The men immediately began repairing the dilapidated log houses. What does the word *dilapidated* mean?
  - A. well built
  - B. rundown
  - C. mysterious
  - D. new

Nine days after Virginia was born, her grandfather, Governor White, called a meeting. He wanted to send their ships back to England for needed farm tools and other supplies. Everyone agreed. They felt that one or more of the nine assistant governors should return with the fleet. But none wanted to leave. Reluctantly, Governor White agreed to go.

At the meeting, the people talked of moving the settlement fifty miles inland. They believed weather conditions inland would be more favorable for farming. They also thought there would be less danger from unfriendly Native Americans and Spanish pirate ships.

“If you leave this place while I’m away, leave a sign. Then I will know where you have gone,” the governor said.

“What kind of sign?” someone asked. “Carve your destination on some place easy to find. A tree, post, or door would work.” He suggested, “If there is danger when you leave, carve a cross over the letters.”

The next day the governor kissed little Virginia and said good-bye. “I’ll be back soon,” he promised. But when he arrived in England, he found his country prepared for war with Spain. This turn of events delayed his return to the colony for three long years.

It was May 20, 1590, when Governor White set sail again for the New World. The journey was slow. The captain, John Watts, was a notorious privateer commander. He was more concerned with taking prizes along the way than reaching the colonists.

They finally landed on the shores of Roanoke Island. The governor could hardly wait to see his beautiful granddaughter. “She’s three years old now. She will call me Grandfather,” he boasted to the crew.

They hurried to the place where the settlement had been. However, instead of a happy reunion, they found the village deserted. The area was overgrown with grass and weeds. Most things of value were missing. Looters or the weather had destroyed what remained.

Governor White stood silently. He stared at the ruins. Where is everyone? He wondered.

“Over here, Governor!” one of the men shouted. “I’ve found something!” He pointed to the word CROATOAN carved on a post.

“What does it mean, sir?” another man asked.

“It’s the name of a Native-American tribe from a nearby island,” Governor White replied. He explained that his people were to leave a sign if they left before his return.

The governor looked closely at the letters on the post. “There is no cross or sign of distress,” he said. He felt encouraged. “Let us pray my people are safe with the Croatoans.”

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

4. Why did Governor White leave the colony after Virginia Dare was born and go back to England?
- A. He was sick.
  - B. His granddaughter was sick.
  - C. The colony needed to stay in touch with family members in England.
  - D. The colony needed farm tools and other supplies.
5. Why did it take Governor White three years to get back to Roanoke Island?
- A. He ran out of money.
  - B. His ships got lost in a storm.
  - C. His ships were captured by pirates.
  - D. England was prepared for war with Spain.
6. What did Governor White find when he finally returned to Roanoke Island?
- A. Some of the colonists were sick.
  - B. The colonists had disappeared.
  - C. Most of the colonists were dead.
  - D. Many of the colonists were starving.

An approaching storm cut short the search around the fort. Everyone scurried back to the ships. Governor White planned to sail to Croatoan Island, but the storm worsened. One ship was almost driven onto the beach. So, the ships put to sea. Damage to the ships and a short supply of food and fresh water forced the crews to return to England.

Back home, Governor White's efforts to organize another rescue expedition failed. There was a lack of interest in England. He did not have enough money to finance the trip himself. The governor believed that some of the colonists, including his daughter and Virginia, were still alive. He grieved over the hardships they might be facing.

Twelve years passed before Sir Walter Raleigh sent a ship and crew to search for the colonists. However, when Captain Mace and his men reached the Cape Fear area, they spent a month gathering roots and bark. These items were in strong demand in England for use as medicines. By the time Mace and his crew were finished, the weather was too stormy. Plans to search for the colonists were abandoned.

All other attempts to locate the colonists also failed. In a letter to a friend, written from his home on February 4, 1598, Governor White reported the failure of his fifth and final voyage to Virginia. In the letter, he prayed for the "merciful help of the Almighty." The governor still believed his people were alive. Later, the English settled in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. The new settlers had heard rumors of mysterious Europeans living at a Roanoke River town. However, it seemed unlikely to them that any of the last Virginians could have survived for twenty years. Besides, the new settlers had too many problems of their own. So, the whereabouts of Governor White's people remained a mystery.

There are many theories about what happened to these lost colonists. One is that they were attacked and killed by hostile Native Americans. Another is that they escaped to Croatoan Island and were killed later by enemy tribes. Still another is that some of the colonists remained with the Native Americans.

No one will ever know what really happened. Four hundred years have passed. The fate of the lost colonists is still a mystery. The people of Roanoke Island, however, have not forgotten their first English citizens. They especially remember little Virginia. The island where she was born was named Dare County in her honor, and the people there still celebrate her birthday every August.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

7. According to the story, which of the following statements is **not** true?
- A. Governor White made five voyages to Virginia to search for the colonists.
  - B. Some people thought the lost colonists had been attacked by hostile Native Americans.
  - C. All Native-American tribes in the New World were unfriendly.
  - D. Several unfortunate mishaps prevented Governor White from finding the lost colonists.
8. Why didn't Jamestown settlers try to find Governor White's people?
- A. They didn't know about the lost settlers.
  - B. They heard rumors that the mysterious Europeans had returned to England.
  - C. English people were not friendly with Europeans.
  - D. They had too many problems of their own.
9. Which word describes how Governor White must have felt after all attempts to find the colonists failed?
- A. content
  - B. silly
  - C. sorrowful
  - D. jubilant
10. Why will no one ever know what happened to the lost colonists?
- A. Captain Samuel Mace could find no trace of the colonists.
  - B. The colonists didn't want to be found.
  - C. So many years have passed that finding reliable clues would be impossible.
  - D. The people of Roanoke Island were forgotten by the people who live there.

TOTAL SCORE: ____/10
----------------------

**Read each sentence. Fill in the bubble next to the answer that correctly identifies the part of speech of the underlined words in the sentence.**

1. Settlers on Roanoke Island waited for the return of Governor White.  
 verbs                       adverbs                       prepositions
  
2. Men very quickly repaired log houses; boys usually hunted in the forest.  
 adverbs                       adjectives                       prepositions
  
3. Colonists on Roanoke Island were never found, but there are many theories about their disappearance.  
 prepositions                       adverbs                       verbs

**Read each of the following sentences. Fill in the bubble next to the correct verb.**

4. Colonists from Europe \_\_\_\_\_ to the New World for religious freedom.  
 come                       came                       had came
  
5. The Mayflower \_\_\_\_\_ over sixty days to complete the risky voyage across the Atlantic.  
 took                       had took                       taken



6. Pocahontas \_\_\_\_\_ to Jamestown to compete in running races.

- had went       went       gone

7. Mother \_\_\_\_\_ the American soldier a safe place to hide.

- had given       had gave       gived

**Read each of the following sentences. Fill in the bubble next to the correct tense of the underlined verbs.**

8. Wagon trains creaked and groaned along the Oregon Trail.

- present       past       future

9. Gold discoveries will bring new settlers to the hills of California.

- present       past       future

10. *The Golden Spike* tells the story of how the East and West were joined by the railroad.

- present       past       future

**DIRECTIONS:** Read all of the sentences. If an underlined word is misspelled, fill in the bubble next to the sentence. If none of the underlined words are misspelled, fill in the bubble next to “No mistake.”

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <input type="radio"/> A. <u>Speed</u> is the race car driver’s goal.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The expansive <u>prairies</u> of the Great Plains loomed on the horizon.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Grandmother made a <u>creemy</u> caramel sauce for our ice cream sundaes.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>  | <p>4. <input type="radio"/> A. Has the <u>transportation</u> department made a decision about repairing the highway?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. We have a “no <u>television-watching</u>” policy at our house until our homework is finished.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. A popular athlete’s endorsement of a product helps ensure its <u>promosion</u> will be successful.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>2. <input type="radio"/> A. My manager refused to <u>entertain</u> my ideas to make the office more efficient.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. It took a whole week to clean our <u>durty</u> garage.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The girl with the <u>curly</u> hair plays on my softball team.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>  | <p>5. <input type="radio"/> A. <u>Geology</u> students spent the summer studying a meteorite crater in Mexico.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Wow! That was the sweetest and <u>juiciest</u> orange I’ve ever eaten!</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Why did the principal <u>suggest</u> we postpone the carnival until May?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>  |
| <p>3. <input type="radio"/> A. Teachers usually arrive at school <u>earlyer</u> than their students to prepare the daily lessons.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. <u>Hungry</u> raccoons climbed onto our porch expecting to find cat food.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The athlete always ate the <u>healthiest</u> foods and excercised every day.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |  |

6.  A. We rested after a frenzied rush of morning shopping.
- B. The medic applied a tourniquet to the victim's arm to stop the bleeding.
- C. Roller coasters that turn upside down terrify my mother.
- D. No mistake
7.  A. Imagine what it would be like to travel to distant, unexplored galaxies.
- B. Disrespectful people sitting behind me talked during the entire movie.
- C. We expressed our disatisfaction with the company's service to the manager.
- D. No mistake
8.  A. Guards heavily surrounded the President as he entered the building.
- B. Father was crisply dressed in a suit for his interview.
- C. Rain clouds gloomily hovered over the city all day.
- D. No mistake
9.  A. The productive meeting made people feel they were making progress.
- B. Friends were very supportive when our family was having financial problems.
- C. The assembly line was the progresive manufacturing idea of Henry Ford.
- D. No mistake.
10.  A. Mother is always snipping coupons to take to the grocery store.
- B. A long centerboard on a sailboat keeps it from capsizeing.
- C. The team was practicing every day after school to prepare for the tournament.
- D. No mistake

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. Valiant sailors prevented the ship from crashing into the reef.
  - A. brave
  - B. cowardly
  - C. courageous
  - D. uniformed
  
2. A strict legal code was designed to keep indentured servants from becoming defiant.
  - A. resistant
  - B. disobedient
  - C. obedient
  - D. independent
  
3. Although the recruits came from diverse backgrounds, they shared common goals.
  - A. same
  - B. different
  - C. varied
  - D. civilized

**PART 2 — Multiple Meanings**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the sentence. Read and answer the question. Fill in the bubble next to the answer.

4. Before electric appliances were invented, irons were heated on wood-burning stoves until they were hot enough to press out wrinkles.
 

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

  - A. Iron is the most common and useful of all mined metals.
  - B. The disputing teams held a discussion to try and iron out their differences.
  - C. World champion cyclist and cancer survivor, Lance Armstrong, is greatly admired because of his iron will.
  - D. Many households today don't need an iron because clothing is often made with permanent press and wrinkle-free fabric.
  
5. Colonists established their settlement before harsh winter snows arrived.
 

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

  - A. The out-of-court settlement prevented a long trial.
  - B. Years later, it was difficult to find evidence of the abandoned settlement.
  - C. The large settlement allowed the injured man to pay his bills while he couldn't work.
  - D. A welfare services building is called a settlement house.

**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.

6. To make sure they wouldn't run short, the army sergeant checked his list of provisions as men loaded the jeep.
- A. bargains
  - B. diagrams
  - C. recruits
  - D. supplies
7. Pocahontas, acting as an agent for Powhatan, secured the release of seven prisoners.
- A. representative
  - B. colonist
  - C. citizen
  - D. laborer

**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. It was startling to see the lightning flash across the night sky.
- A. surprising
  - B. calming
  - C. verifying
  - D. unimpressive
9. The scouts were parched after their hike around the lake.
- A. sturdy
  - B. thirsty
  - C. boundless
  - D. plodding
10. Prevailing winds in the delta often provided a gentle, cooling breeze.
- A. jolting
  - B. howling
  - C. frequent
  - D. visible

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.*

Not long ago, the majestic condor was nearly 8  
 extinct. This huge bird has a wingspan of nine feet 18  
 or more. During the 1980s, the Los Angeles Zoo 27  
 began a program to save these giant scavengers. 35  
 At that time, only twenty-seven existed in the 44  
 entire nation. All but one of them lived in captivity. 54  
 In 1987, the last wild condor was caught. It was a 65  
 nineteen-pound male. 68

Many people feared condors would perish in 75  
 the zoo. They didn’t want to have the last of its 86  
 kind removed from nature. Those who opposed 93  
 confining the bird chained themselves to the zoo 101  
 gate. This forced the keepers to ship the condor 110  
 to the San Diego Zoo. The purpose of this act was 121  
 to get the bird away from the protestors. A year 131  
 later, the bird was returned to L.A. 138

One of the females captured in 1986 was named 147  
 Adult Condor-8. While at the zoo, she produced 156  
 nine babies. She remained in captivity for fourteen 164  
 years. This bird was the first to be given her freedom. 175  
 At the same time, two juveniles born at the zoo 185  
 were released. The youngsters were placed under 192  
 the watchful care of Adult Condor-8. People rejoiced 201  
 when the birds were able to freely soar the skies of 212  
 their natural habitat. 215

Still considered endangered, condor numbers had 221  
 grown to 198 in the year 2002. Over one-third of the 233  
 birds live in the wild. 238

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)	= <u>123</u>

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.

America got many of its ideas about freedom from 9  
 William Penn. He was born in England. His father 18  
 was a member of the Church of England. From an 28  
 early age, Penn did not like the teachings of this 38  
 church. After hearing a sermon by a preacher, he 47  
 joined the Quaker church. At that time, this religion 56  
 had been outlawed in England. 61  
 Penn was expelled from college because of his 69  
 beliefs. He was sent to prison six times for stating his 80  
 opinions. He became bothered by the lack of spiritual 89  
 freedom in his country. So, he moved to America. 98  
 There, he created a safe haven. In his colony, people 108  
 lived free from religious bias. 113  
 Penn was a champion of human rights. He 121  
 insisted that women deserved equal rights with men. 129  
 He is also known for his fair treatment of Indians. 139  
 He made a treaty with Indians living in his colony. 149  
 It was intended to last “as long as the sun gave light.” 161  
 Penn was put in jail for treason on a return trip 172  
 to England. The authorities thought he wanted to 180  
 overthrow the king. He was cleared of the charges. 189  
 Then he returned to America. The people living in 198  
 his colony still wanted more freedom. Penn listened. 206  
 The resulting document was called “The Charter of 214  
 Privileges.” 215

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)	= 123

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.

## Narrative Writing Prompt

**Writing Situation:** It is the year 1849, and you are traveling in a wagon train headed to California. You are recording your observations in your journal.

**Purpose:** To inform your classmates about your journey

**Audience:** Your classmates

**Writing Directions:** Think about your wagon train experience. Consider the sights you have seen, the food you have eaten, and the risks of the journey to California. Write your observations in a journal. Include descriptive words and sensory details.

### Student Checklist:

<b>Revising</b>
<p>_____ Have you shown your readers what you did and what you observed?</p> <p>_____ Did you develop a logical sequence of events?</p> <p>_____ Did you use precise words to describe mood, suspense, humor, or excitement?</p> <p>_____ Did you use sensory details to help the reader imagine the experience?</p> <p>_____ Have you explained your feelings about why the experience is memorable?</p>
<b>Proofreading</b>
<p>_____ Is every paragraph indented?</p> <p>_____ Did you capitalize proper nouns and the beginnings of sentences?</p> <p>_____ Did you use correct grammar?</p> <p>_____ Did you use correct punctuation?</p> <p>_____ Is every word spelled correctly?</p>

Conventions Score: _____ /4	<b>TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: _____ /4</b>
Genre Score: _____ /4	
Writing Traits Score: _____ /4	



# NOTES

---

# NOTES

---

# NOTES

---

**Seventh Edition**

**© 2008 Reading Lions Center**

**Unauthorized reproduction of this booklet, or any part thereof, is strictly prohibited.  
Permission to reproduce materials must be obtained in writing from the Reading Lions Center.**

Every effort has been made to contact the copyright holders of any material reproduced in this booklet.  
Any omissions will be rectified in subsequent printings if notice is given to the publishers.