


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET



6-8 Week
Skills
Assessments

Developed for Districts
Using *Open Court Reading 2002*

G **R** **A** **D** **E** **6**

Unit 5

Student Name _____

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

Walk on the Wild Side

Donna D'Amelio

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to touch a living sea star or examine the underside of a horseshoe crab? Have you contemplated how an animal survives in the scorching desert? Where do clouds come from, or how close is the nearest star?

If you've asked yourself even one of these questions, there are places you can go to learn the answers. These places are called "living museums."

What makes a living museum different from other museums? Living museums all have the same goal. They want to preserve and conserve our natural resources. They also want to make people aware of the variety of plants and animals in the world and how important each one is to our survival.

To meet these goals, living museums provide something no other museum can. "We provide kids with a one-on-one experience with animals," says George Mathews, Jr.. Mr. Mathews is the curatorial director at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, Virginia.

Kids visiting these museums are encouraged to touch and experience the many exhibits. Looking at a Gila monster, examining the underground tunnels of a burrowing owl, or scrambling through caves makes learning fun.

At the Virginia Living Museum, visitors are encouraged to experience the "touch tank." The tank is "home" for a variety of sea animals, including whelks, hermit crabs, sea stars, and horseshoe crabs.

In the museum's classrooms, children are challenged to a snake race. They get on the floor and wiggle around like snakes. They aren't allowed to move any body part that a snake can't move. Other exhibits in the museum include a living beehive and a room filled with night creatures.

The museum also has a nature walk. During the walk, visitors can view Virginia's wild animals in their natural habitats. "We stay away from the typical zoo setting," George says. "No bars or cement."

So how do these living museums make sure their animals' habitats are just right? It takes a lot of hard detective work. David West, the plant specialist at the Virginia Living Museum, designs the landscapes. He grows the plants that make the animals' exhibits look so natural.

"With the exception of sunlight, plants are the most important part of our ecological system," David explains. "People need to understand how important plants are to the health of the world. Plants provide oxygen, stop erosion, and clean our air."

There's no better way to understand about clean air and what's happening in the sky than a visit to the museum's planetarium. "With television and video games, people just don't look up anymore," says Jon Bell. Mr. Bell is the director of astronomy for the museum. As the head of the planetarium, Jon wants to get everyone interested in the wonders of the sky.

The planetarium is equipped with the latest technology—from computers to a star machine. Inside the planetarium, technicians put on a variety of shows. Visitors experience thunderstorms, take a trip underwater, learn why we have rainbows, and examine sunspots on the surface of the sun.

"We make science come alive," says Pete Money, education director for the Virginia Living Museum. "Doing it, touching it, experiencing it. That's what we're all about."

But if you don't live in Virginia, where else can you go? Deep in the Sonora Desert in Arizona, you'll find the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum outside Tucson. It helps young people of all ages understand the delicate balance between plants and animals living in the desert. If you visit, you'll get to travel along an underground tunnel. You will learn how desert animals survive in the heat. Visitors also get to experience the thrill of spelunking through a replica of a cave found in the wild. But keep your eyes open or you'll miss the real bats that call the cave home.

The Living Desert Museum in Palm Desert, California, has some of the world's rarest and most exotic desert animals, including the desert "unicorn," the Arabian oryx. This living museum's botanical gardens represent ten major North American desert regions. Work has already begun on a new exhibit, Eagle Canyon. At this exhibit, you'll come "face to face with the animals that rule the desert's skies, mountains, canyons, and sands."

The High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, takes you on a "walk through time" and explores the pioneer settlements of the West. The museum recreates the "legends, lore, and life of the high desert." You can walk beside a trout stream, feed a porcupine, or learn what it was like to be part of a Paiute Indian family.

Yet it isn't all fun and games. At the Virginia Living Museum and at some of the other museums as well, every day is "Earth Day." Staff members encourage visitors to take an active role in doing their part to stop pollution and conserve our natural resources.

"If I had to pick just one thing people could do that would have the most effect, it would be to recycle," says Pete Money. "It only takes three minutes a day to recycle 70 percent of the trash."

There are other living museums found around the United States. These museums are working hard to preserve nature so future generations can walk on the wild side.

Now answer the questions about the selection.

1. What is the main goal of a living museum?
 - A. to provide people with a one-on-one experience with animals
 - B. to encourage children to touch and experience the many exhibits
 - C. to make people aware of how important plants and animals are to our survival
 - D. to provide a place where school children can go on field trips

2. How do living museums meet that goal?
 - A. They sell all kinds of nature books and posters.
 - B. They show nature films every day of the week.
 - C. They have special Saturday morning nature programs for children.
 - D. They provide people with a one-on-one experience with nature.

3. When you visit a planetarium, you will learn about
 - A. how to preserve our natural resources.
 - B. sunspots.
 - C. why plants are an important part of our ecological system.
 - D. how snakes move.

4. What is one thing people can do to help preserve our natural resources?
 - A. recycle trash
 - B. bring their friends to a living museum
 - C. go spelunking in a cave
 - D. encourage zoos to create habitats that are just right for their animals

5. Which of the following exhibits would **not** be found in a living museum?
 - A. a gorilla in a cage with cement floors
 - B. a “touch tank” with a variety of sea animals
 - C. a snake in its natural habitat
 - D. a planetarium

6. Designing an animal habitat takes a lot of hard detective work. Which of the following things would you do to create an animal’s habitat?
- A. grow plants that will make the animal’s exhibit look natural
 - B. observe the animal in its natural environment
 - C. visit zoos and living museums that exhibit the same animal
 - D. all of the above
7. According to this article, plants are important to the earth’s health because
- A. they shade animals.
 - B. animals eat plants.
 - C. they provide oxygen.
 - D. all of the above
8. The selection says that the Arabian oryx is an exotic desert animal. What does the word *exotic* mean? (page 3, paragraph 5)
- A. able to go without water
 - B. common and plain
 - C. rare, unusual, or foreign
 - D. able to eat cactus plants
9. The museum recreates the “legends, lore, and life of the high desert.” (page 3, paragraph 6) In this sentence, the word *recreates* means
- A. refreshes one’s mind or body through play in the high desert.
 - B. simulates the experiences and environment of the high desert.
 - C. happens or shows up again.
 - D. the quality or condition of being correct.
10. Another good title for this article is
- A. “The Life-Cycle of Bats.”
 - B. “Living Museums: Where Science Comes Alive.”
 - C. “Animals of the Desert.”
 - D. “A Walk Through Time.”

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each of the following sentences. Fill in the bubble next to the verb that correctly completes the sentence.

1. The preservation of natural resources _____ an important goal of living museums.
 is are
2. Plants, clean air, and sunlight _____ our environment a healthy place in which to live.
 makes make
3. In the animals' exhibits, design specialists create natural-looking habitats that _____ real.
 looks look

Read each of the following sentences. Underline the direct objects and circle the indirect objects.

4. Rainforest canopies provide researchers many habitats and mysteries.
5. Alejandro gave his desert neighbors a gift.

Read each of the following sentences. Underline the verb phrase and fill in the bubble next to the correct verb tense.

6. Scientists will have studied fire ecology in North America to better understand the role of fire in nature.
- present perfect past perfect future perfect
7. Some species of plants and animals have adapted to periodic fires.
- present perfect past perfect future perfect
8. In some parts of the Pacific Northwest, fires had burned less frequently but with more intensity.
- present perfect past perfect future perfect

Read each of the following sentences. Circle the antecedent of each underlined pronoun.

9. Peregrine falcons were nearly extinct, but now they are found all over the world.
10. DDT comes in a powder or a liquid, and it is a very toxic pesticide.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

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.”

1. A. The changeable skin of the chameleon enables it to hide from predators.
 - B. Although he had grown a beard, the man was still recognizable from his picture.
 - C. Since she was knowledgable about science, the woman volunteered to be a substitute teacher.
 - D. No mistake
2. A. Red Chinese dragons and pandas are two kinds of animals nearing extincion in China.
 - B. There was a glaring omission in the witness’s statement.
 - C. The animation in the movie was so realistic that I almost believed the character was alive.
 - D. No mistake
3. A. It was unnecessary for me to take the bus yesterday because my brother drove me to school.
 - B. The insurance company determined that Dad’s traffic accident was unavoidable.
 - C. The ungrateful swimmer refused to accept the second-place ribbon.
 - D. No mistake
4. A. The gloomy atmosphere in the room put everyone in a bad mood.
 - B. If you study the chronology of events, you will understand the play.
 - C. Microscopic organisms cannot be viewed with the naked eye.
 - D. No mistake
5. A. Occupancy is strictly limited; only fifty people are allowed in this room at one time.
 - B. The apartment building was vacant and hadn’t been occupied for several months.
 - C. Changing the format on this document will occupy my entire weekend.
 - D. No mistake

6. A. People around the globe are engaged in a universel effort to achieve peace and harmony for all.
- B. Occupational medicine deals with work-related injuries and diseases.
- C. The field trip to the theater was both entertaining and educational.
- D. No mistake
7. A. A police officer's chief responsibility is to enforce the laws.
- B. Architects incorporate their knowledge of math, engineering, and artistic appeal when designing a building.
- C. The open range of the wild west came to an end when cattlemen inclosed their ranches with fences.
- D. No mistake
8. A. After synchronizing their watches, the girls headed for different stores in the mall.
- B. Camaflying their jeep with branches, the soldiers waited to be rescued.
- C. We unknowingly wandered into an unmapped area of the cavern.
- D. No mistake
9. A. History students were required to read Abraham Lincoln's three autobiographys.
- B. Government laws were established to prevent large business monopolies.
- C. Polygraphs are used as lie detector tests by law enforcement officers.
- D. No mistake
10. A. Scientific research must be verified by several experts before the results of an experiment are considered reliable.
- B. The wood carver needed only a few more decorative noches to complete his sculpture.
- C. The astronomer gazed through his telescope and imagined traveling to uncharted planets and galaxies.
- 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. It is inevitable that we will improve our scoring percentage if we practice every day.
 - A. uncertain
 - B. predicted
 - C. liquified
 - D. routine

2. Advocates of after-school programs encouraged people to vote for the proposition.
 - A. falconers
 - B. candidates
 - C. opponents
 - D. supporters

3. Whether hiking in the foothills, mountains, or desert, watch for venomous snakes.
 - A. foraging
 - B. poisonous
 - C. predatory
 - D. harmless

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. Partially digested food in the bird's crop was used to feed the baby birds.
 In which sentence is the word crop used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
 - A. Corn is an essential money crop because the grain is grown here and shipped overseas.
 - B. The zookeeper knew that the falcon chick had been properly fed when its crop began to bulge.
 - C. The young man asked his barber to crop his hair closely so it would stay out of his eyes.
 - D. With crop in hand, the horseback rider was prepared for the jumping competition.

5. As I stood in the middle of Sequoia National Park, I was able to detect the crowns of the massive redwoods.
 In which sentence is the word crown used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
 - A. Although a wild, fly ball landed on the outfielder's crown, he still caught the ball.
 - B. Grandpa returned from his appointment and said the dentist had replaced his broken crown.
 - C. Botanists at the nursery said we should cover the sapling with straw to protect its crown during the winter months.
 - D. The crown of my coin collection is an 1889 gold piece that my father inherited from his grandfather.

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. The fisherman drifted in his disabled sailboat on the stormy, perilous seas.
- A. dangerous
 - B. accelerated
 - C. metabolic
 - D. adaptable
7. The rancher’s favorite pinto was a brown and tan, mottled pony named Spot.
- A. nocturnal
 - B. obese
 - C. elite
 - D. blotched

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. Photographs preserve cherished moments in people’s lives.
- A. treasured
 - B. poaching
 - C. drudgery
 - D. suppressing
9. Not wanting to be vulnerable, the island people boarded up their houses to protect them from the hurricane’s destructive winds.
- A. invincible
 - B. trawling
 - C. shunned
 - D. defenseless
10. A blend of cinnamon sticks and cloves steeped in hot, apple cider makes a delicious drink.
- A. ascended
 - B. soaked
 - C. dredged
 - D. endured

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.

When most people speak about rain forests, 7
 they refer to the lush, tropical regions in the jungles 17
 near the equator. People seldom mention the dense, 25
 temperate rain forests located along the Pacific coast. 33
 This forest ranges from Alaska to Oregon. Here 41
 warm, moist air from the Pacific Ocean drops up to 51
 sixteen feet of rain in a single year. 59
 Let us examine a few differences between 66
 temperate and tropical rain forests. Both ecosystems 73
 receive a great deal of rain. Tropical forests have rain 83
 evenly spread throughout the year. Strong shower 90
 bursts occur frequently. In contrast, temperate rain 97
 forests have lengthy wet seasons and fairly dry 105
 summers. Fog provides the necessary moisture for 112
 plants during the summer. 116
 A tropical rain forest has three layers: the forest 125
 floor, the understory, and the canopy. It is home for 135
 well over half of the earth’s plant and animal species. 145
 The poor soil supports a wealth of vines, climbing 154
 plants, and broad-leafed evergreens. The temperate 161
 rain forest has a less complex ecology. Its cool 170
 winters limit the numbers and variety of life forms 179
 that survive there. The most common trees are 187
 evergreens. 188
 Tropical rain forests are more fragile than 195
 temperate rain forests. However, both forests are 202
 threatened. Once they are destroyed, it will take 210
 years for these ecosystems to revive. 216

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) = 147

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.

The bison, native to North America, is also called a buffalo. The powerful male is twice the weight of the female. It measures over six feet tall at its shoulders and weighs nearly a ton. The bison’s shaggy, brown fur grows longest on the animal’s head, neck, and shoulders; a straggling beard hangs from its chin. Both male and female have short, curving horns. Despite their massive size, buffalo are agile runners, capable of sprinting up to thirty-five miles an hour.

Herds of buffalo were rapidly dying by the early 1800s. Once, the animals numbered over sixty million. People were pushing across the continent. The herds had to compete with the settlers. They were turning the animals’ grazing grounds into farmland. The westward expansion encroached upon the buffalo’s habitat. Building the railroad from the Atlantic to Pacific Ocean made the buffalo’s demise certain. Organized hunting parties killed this huge mammal for sport. People shot the animal from trains as they passed through its territory.

Some settlers were concerned. They thought the slaughter of the buffalo might also wipe out Native Americans. Bison were an important staple and their main source of protein. They used the hides for clothing, blankets, and shelter. In 1885, fewer than nine hundred buffalo remained on the plains. Cattlemen became alarmed. So people created refuges to save the animals. Today, herds number around 200,000. Hopefully, the buffalo will endure for future generations to enjoy.

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) = 147

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.

Persuasive Writing Prompt

Writing Situation: You are the editor of your school newspaper, and your principal has just announced there will no longer be after-school sports.

Purpose: To convince your readers to think a certain way

Audience: The student body

Writing Directions: Think of how you feel about the new announcement and take a position on the issue. Write an editorial either supporting the importance of school sports or supporting the decision to cancel sports. Use logical reasons and specific examples to support your opinion.

Student Checklist:

Revising
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you identify your purpose and state your position in the opening paragraph?
<input type="checkbox"/> Have you organized paragraphs around topic sentences with supporting evidence?
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you maintain your focus throughout the paper?
<input type="checkbox"/> Have you used convincing words to persuade your audience?
<input type="checkbox"/> Is your paper organized logically and persuasively?
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you include convincing examples that support your opinion?
<input type="checkbox"/> Is your opinion restated in your conclusion?
Proofreading
<input type="checkbox"/> Is every paragraph indented?
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you capitalize proper nouns and the beginnings of sentences?
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you use correct grammar?
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you use correct punctuation?
<input type="checkbox"/> Is every word spelled correctly?

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

NOTES

Seventh Edition

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