

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

## SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS

READING

Putting on a Play  
Characters  
Plot  
Setting  
Scenes  
Scripts

ACT 1  
SCENE 1



# READING

SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS

# TEST BOOK

RELEASED OCTOBER 2005

LAST USED: MARCH 2005

## GRADE

# 4

FC10001265

To offer students a variety of text on the FCAT Reading tests, authentic and copyrighted stories, poems, and articles appear as they were originally published, as requested by the publisher and/or author. While these real-world examples do not always adhere to strict style conventions and/or grammar rules, inconsistencies among passages do not detract from the students' abilities to understand and answer questions about the texts.

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## SSS Reading

This test measures how well students are achieving the benchmarks in Florida's Sunshine State Standards.

Here is a list with pictures to help you locate the passages in your Reading Test Book.



The Sticky-Sticky Pine ..... Page 4



Dolphins to the Doctor ..... Page 8



Across the Blue Mountains ..... Page 13



Why Does Everyone Love Amelia? ..... Page 18



Song for a Cottontail ..... Page 25



Busy Builders ..... Page 28

Read each article, story, or poem in this Test Book. Then choose the best answer to each question that follows.



This symbol appears next to questions that require short written answers. Use about 5 minutes to answer each of these questions.

A complete and correct answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points.  
A partially correct answer is worth 1 point.



This symbol appears next to questions that require longer written answers. Use about 10 to 15 minutes to answer each of these questions.

A complete and correct answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points.  
A partially correct answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.



Read the story "The Sticky-Sticky Pine" and then answer Numbers 1 through 6.

## The Sticky-Sticky Pine

**ONCE** there was a woodcutter. He was very poor but very kind. Never would he tear off the living branches of a tree to make firewood. Instead, he would gather only the dead branches on the ground. He knew what happened when you tore a branch off a tree. The sap, which is the blood of a tree, would drip and drip. So, since he didn't want to harm the trees, he never tore off the branches.

One day he was walking beneath a high pine tree hunting for firewood when he heard a voice, saying:

"Sticky, sticky is my sap,  
For my tender twigs are snapped."

The woodcutter looked and, sure enough, someone had broken three limbs off the pine and the sap was running out. Skillfully, he mended them, saying:

"Now these tender twigs I'll wrap,  
And in that way stop the sap."



And he tore a piece from his own clothes to make a bandage.

No sooner had he finished than many tiny gold and silver things fell from the tree. It was money—a lot of it. The surprised woodcutter was almost covered up with it. He looked at the tree and smiled and thanked it. Then he took the money home.

There was a great amount, and he slowly realized that he was now a very rich woodcutter indeed. Everyone knows that the pine tree is the sign of prosperity in Japan and, sure enough, the grateful pine had made him very rich.



Just then a face appeared in the window. It was the face of another woodcutter. But this woodcutter was neither nice nor kind. In fact, it was he who had torn off the branches of the pine and had broken its twigs. When he saw the money he said: "Where did you get all that money? Look how nice and bright it is."

The good woodcutter held up the money so the other could see. It was oblong in shape, the way money used to be in Japan, and he had five basketfuls. He told the bad woodcutter how he had got the money.

"From that big pine tree?"

"Yes, that was the one."

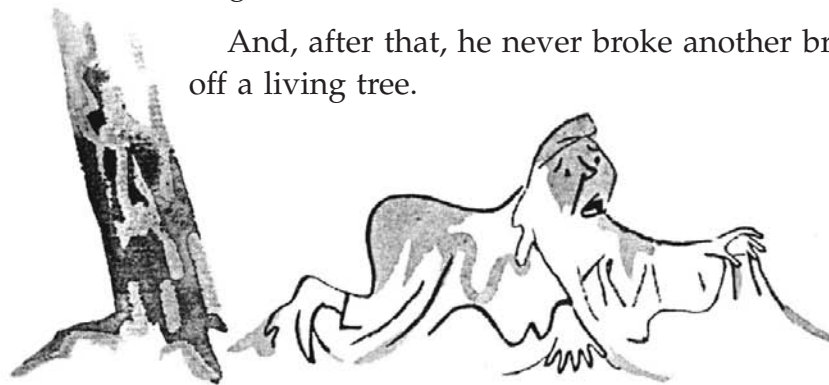
"Hmm," said the bad woodcutter and ran away as fast as he could go. He ran right up to the old pine tree, and the tree said:

"Sticky, sticky is my blood.  
Touch me, you'll receive a flood."

"Oh, just what I want," said the bad man, "a flood of gold and silver." He reached up and broke off another branch. The pine tree suddenly showered him. But it showered him with sticky, sticky sap—not gold and silver at all.

The bad woodcutter was covered with sap. It got in his hair and on his arms and legs. Since it was so sticky, he couldn't move and though he called for help, no one could hear him. He had to remain there for three days—one day for each branch—until the sap became soft enough for him to drag himself home.

And, after that, he never broke another branch off a living tree.





Now answer Numbers 1 through 6. Base your answers on the story  
“The Sticky-Sticky Pine.”

1 Read this sentence from the story.

**Everyone knows that the pine tree is the sign of prosperity in Japan and, sure enough, the grateful pine had made him very rich.**

What does *prosperity* mean?

- A. health
  - B. kindness
  - C. wealth
  - D. wisdom
- 2 How does the first woodcutter change in the story?
- F. At first he is poor; then he is rich.
  - G. At first he is kind; then he is angry.
  - H. At first he is selfish; then he is responsible.
  - I. At first he is hard-working; then he is lazy.
- 3 What does the second woodcutter think will happen when he returns to the forest and breaks off another branch?
- A. Sap will cover him.
  - B. Money will fall on him.
  - C. The tree will talk to him.
  - D. Water will flood over him.



- 4 Why does the second woodcutter stay under the pine tree for three days?
- F. He has to wait for help to come.
  - G. He has to wait for the sap to soften.
  - H. He has to wait for the money to fall.
  - I. He has to wait for the branches to heal.

- 5 How are the two woodcutters DIFFERENT in the way that they collect firewood and act toward trees? Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ  
THINK  
EXPLAIN

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- 6 Which reason BEST tells why the author wrote this story?
- A. to inform people about life in Japan
  - B. to encourage people to care for nature
  - C. to show people how to mend pine trees
  - D. to tell people about the work of woodcutters



Read the article "Dolphins to the Doctor" and then answer Numbers 7 through 15.

**W**hat would you do if you owned an aquarium for ocean animals and one of your dolphins got sick? How would you take the dolphin to the veterinarian (animal doctor)? You could not scoop it out of the water with a net because that would frighten and maybe injure it. A dolphin's skin is soft and might be cut by the knots in the net. It might even drown.

You could throw away most of the water in the pool so the vet (veterinarian) could just walk up to the dolphin in the shallows.<sup>1</sup> That is a good way. But it costs money to filter and treat<sup>2</sup> a half-million gallons of salt water. Throwing away all that water would cost you about a thousand dollars, so you probably wouldn't want to do that either.

The old-fashioned way is to catch the dolphin, getting into the water with the animal. That was what we did when I was

head scuba diver for Marine World in northern California from 1972 to 1987.

Wearing wetsuits, swim fins, and masks, the other divers and I would put a net in the water. This was not to catch the dolphin, but to give it less room to swim. Then we pushed the net close to the wall, so we had a narrow "piece" of water, maybe thirty feet long and ten feet wide and deep. Then we swam over the top of the net, in with the dolphin.

Holding my breath, I would swim slowly down and try to put my hands gently around the dolphin's smooth back and sides. Sometimes, if I was careful and moved very slowly, the dolphin would hold still for me and let me take it to the top.

But sometimes the dolphin would not let me take it gently, and then things could get rough. Dolphins look cute, but they are

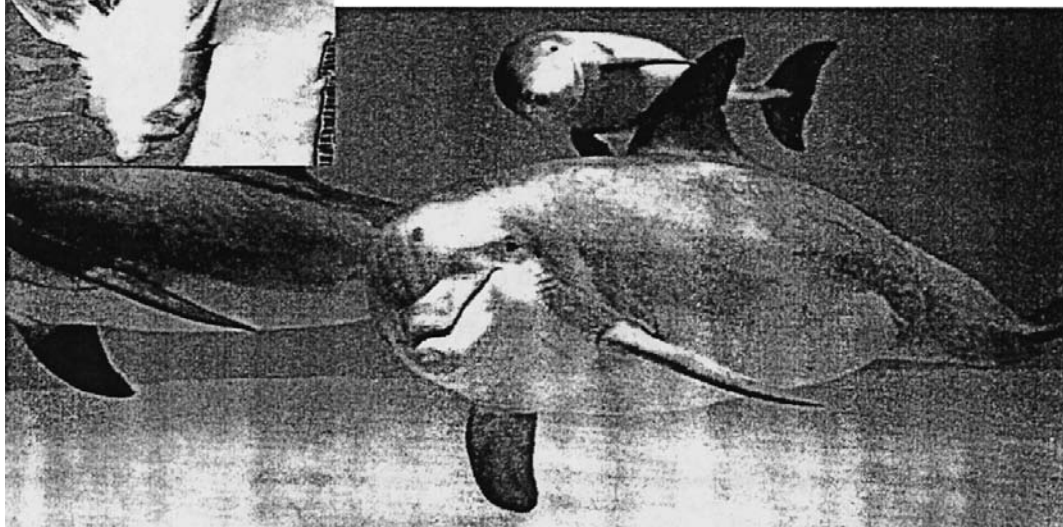
<sup>1</sup> shallows: shallow water

<sup>2</sup> treat: clean



# Dolphins to the Doctor

By Don C. Reed





big—bigger than professional football players. Dolphins can weigh as much as five hundred pounds. They are fast enough to leap twenty feet straight up out of the water and strong enough to knock out a shark.

Today we know that the best way to get a dolphin to the doctor is to train it to swim over to the vet. Recently, I watched a dolphin practice being taken to the doctor. There was nothing wrong with the dolphin, but in a couple of weeks a veterinarian would give the animal a checkup. This was just a teaching session so the dolphin would know what to do when it was time for a shot or an examination.<sup>3</sup>

The veterinarian's assistant, Mary Fleming, blew a whistle, and a dolphin

swam right over to the side of the tank. Mary leaned out and touched the dorsal fin on the smooth wet back, to get the dolphin used to being handled. Mary put a stethoscope in her ears and used the flat end to listen to the dolphin's chest. She even took a metal dinner fork and poked the dolphin on the tail, gently—not hard enough to break the skin, just enough that it would get used to the feel of a shot. Finally, Mary blew the whistle again and gave the animal a fish reward, because it had held still.

This is the way dolphins go to the doctor today. It is a good way: gentle, easy on the animal. When I remember how hard we used to work to catch those dolphins, I'm glad the trainers have found an easier way.

<sup>3</sup>**examination:** a medical checkup



Now answer Numbers 7 through 15. Base your answers on the article "Dolphins to the Doctor."

- 7 What is the MAIN reason the author believes that caretakers would not want to drain most of the water from a dolphin pool?
- F. It is too cruel.
  - G. It is too difficult.
  - H. It is too expensive.
  - I. It is too dangerous.
- 8 Why did the author put a net into the dolphin pool at Marine World?
- A. to calm the dolphin
  - B. to scoop up the dolphin
  - C. to prevent the dolphin from leaping
  - D. to reduce the dolphin's swimming area
- 9 In the article, why are dolphins compared to football players?
- F. Dolphins are large.
  - G. Dolphins are strong.
  - H. Dolphins like to play rough.
  - I. Dolphins like to play games.



- 10** Why do trainers and dolphins have training periods before a doctor's visit?
- A. so the dolphin can get used to nets in his pool
  - B. so the dolphin will know what to do at a checkup
  - C. so the trainer can report on the health of the dolphin
  - D. so the trainer can practice giving medicine to the dolphin
- 11** According to the article, what would be the FIRST thing that a veterinarian's assistant would do at a practice checkup for a dolphin?
- F. Blow a whistle to call the dolphin.
  - G. Swim slowly to guide the dolphin.
  - H. Touch its back to relax the dolphin.
  - I. Drain water to get closer to the dolphin.
- 12** According to the article, dolphins can be dangerous to divers because
- A. dolphins have rough skin.
  - B. dolphins are mean and scary.
  - C. dolphins have huge appetites.
  - D. dolphins are big and powerful.



- 13 Think about what the article is about. Then read this sentence.

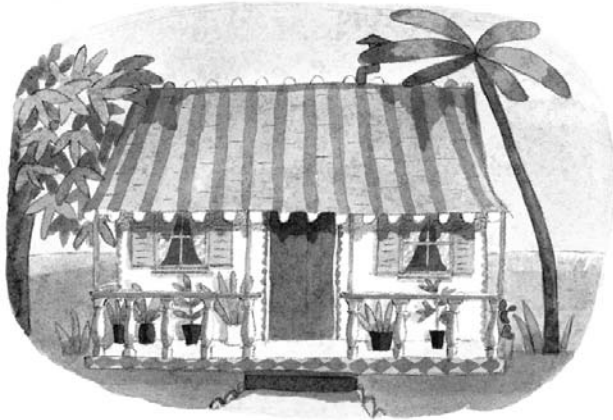
**Mary put a stethoscope in her ears and used the flat end to listen to the dolphin's chest.**

What is a *stethoscope*?

- F. a kind of radio
  - G. a musical instrument
  - H. a medical instrument
  - I. a kind of thermometer
- 14 Read this sentence from the article.
- But sometimes the dolphin would not let me take it gently, and then things could get rough.**
- Which word means about the same as *gently* in this sentence?
- A. carelessly
  - B. easily
  - C. fairly
  - D. quickly
- 15 What is the author's main purpose for writing "Dolphins to the Doctor"?
- F. to tell interesting facts about dolphins
  - G. to show an easier way to train dolphins
  - H. to explain a safer way to examine dolphins
  - I. to give medical information about dolphins



Read the story "Across the Blue Mountains" and then answer Numbers 16 through 21.



# ACROSS T · H · E BLUE MOUNTAINS

by Emma Chichester Clark

Miss Bilberry lived in a pale yellow house at the base of the great blue mountains with a dog named Cecilie, a cat called Chester, and two birds called Chitty and Chatty.

Every morning Miss Bilberry had breakfast in the shade of a broad-leaved tree, looking out at her beautiful view of the mountains.

After breakfast she swept the path and fed the birds and animals. She watered the flowers and vegetables growing in her garden. Then she had a light lunch on the veranda.<sup>1</sup>

In the afternoon she had a nap in her hammock between two swaying palms. And sometimes in the evening she played her violin and sang a few songs before she went to bed.

It was a lovely life, and Miss Bilberry would have been completely happy, except for one thing.

She just couldn't stop wondering whether she might not be even happier if she lived on the other side of the mountains. The more she looked, the more she wondered.



<sup>1</sup> veranda: a porch covered by a roof



One day, Miss Bilberry could stand it no longer. “Everybody up!” she called to Cecilie, Chester, and Chitty and Chatty. “Today’s the day! We’re going to move! Let’s start packing!”

Not wanting to be left behind, they all helped fill boxes, baskets, and bags and put everything from the little yellow house onto a wobbly old cart.

Then they waved good-bye to the house and the garden, the broad-leaved tree and the two swaying palms, and set off toward the blue mountains.

“I just can’t wait to get to the other side!” cried Miss Bilberry. But Chester looked back sadly.

They walked and walked, pushing the heavy cart for many miles, through fields, and forests, through rain, and sunshine, uphill, and downhill.

They reached a place where the flowers were taller than Miss Bilberry! They could hardly see where they were going.

“This is the wrong way,” snarled Chester.

“No it isn’t,” snapped Cecilie.

Miss Bilberry climbed a tree, but she still wasn’t sure where they were.

“Told you so,” said Chester.

“Everything is going to be fine when we get to the other side,” said Miss Bilberry.

On and on they went.

Chester grumbled, Cecilie moaned, but Miss Bilberry just kept going.

Chitty and Chatty tried to help by flying ahead.

“They’re hopeless!” snarled Chester.

But soon Chitty and Chatty returned. “We’ve found a lovely house,” they cried, “with trees and flowers! Follow us!”

And there it was . . .





“Oh my!” gasped Miss Bilberry. “It’s perfection. It’s just as I thought it would be!”

“Thank goodness for that,” sighed Chester.

Chester and Cecilie ran the rest of the way. When Miss Bilberry caught up they all unpacked the boxes and emptied the bags. In between loads Chester sniffed the air. It’s strange, he thought, but I feel as if I’ve been here before.



Miss Bilberry was so tired that she slept all afternoon in her hammock, which she strung between two swaying palms, exactly as before. Then she made a stew from the vegetables growing in the garden, and they all began to feel better.

Each morning when the sun shown in her window, Miss Bilberry leapt out of bed. Her life seemed better than ever. Her breakfast seemed more delicious and the mountains seemed more beautiful.

It was a lovely life and she was happy. But there were some things that bothered Miss Bilberry . . .

. . . she didn’t say anything, but she just couldn’t stop wondering.

It seemed to her that even though they had traveled a very long way, everything was much the same. Even the mountains, which should really have been at the back of the house, were still in front. It was a mystery to Miss Bilberry, and she sometimes worried about it.

Chester, the clever cat, smiled to himself. He knew the answer, but he would never tell Miss Bilberry. He liked their quiet life in the pale yellow house with its broad-leaved tree, its two swaying palms, and its cool veranda.





Now answer Numbers 16 through 21. Base your answers on the story  
"Across the Blue Mountains."

- 16** What happens when Miss Bilberry and her animals get lost in the tall flowers?
- A. They learn that Miss Bilberry is a good tree climber.
  - B. They get confused and travel in the wrong direction.
  - C. They see the beautiful gardens around the mountains.
  - D. They decide to turn around and go back to their home.
- 17** What happened AFTER Miss Bilberry and her pets left their house behind but BEFORE Miss Bilberry climbed a tree?
- F. Miss Bilberry unpacked the boxes.
  - G. They loaded their things into a cart.
  - H. Miss Bilberry cooked a vegetable stew.
  - I. They walked through fields and forests.
- 18** How do Miss Bilberry and her animals finally find their way out of the tall flowers?
- A. Miss Bilberry climbs a tree and tells everyone where to go.
  - B. Chester and Cecilie find their way and then call the others.
  - C. Chitty and Chatty fly ahead and then lead the way to a house.
  - D. Miss Bilberry and her animals use the blue mountains as a guide.



- 19** After their journey, how is Chester, the cat, DIFFERENT from Miss Bilberry?
- F. Chester wants to stop and unpack the boxes, but Miss Bilberry wants to keep traveling.
  - G. Chester is glad to be finished with the long walk, but Miss Bilberry wants more exercise.
  - H. Chester is glad to rest in the hammock, but Miss Bilberry prefers to work in her pretty new garden.
  - I. Chester knows they have returned to the old house, but Miss Bilberry thinks the new house is better than the old one.
- 20** At the end of the story, why does the author repeat her description of the house?
- A. to show why Chester was angry about living in the new house
  - B. to let readers know that Miss Bilberry would probably move again
  - C. to show why Miss Bilberry was happy when they left the old house
  - D. to let readers know that Chester realizes the truth about the new house
- 21** How is living in the new house DIFFERENT from living in the old house?
- F. At her new house Miss Bilberry grows flowers, but at her old house she cooked vegetables.
  - G. In the new house Miss Bilberry naps in her hammock, but at the old house she napped in her bed.
  - H. At her new house Miss Bilberry has a view of the mountains, but at her old house she missed seeing the mountains.
  - I. In the new house Miss Bilberry wonders why everything seems familiar, but at her old house she thought a change could make her happier.



Read the article “Why Does Everyone Love Amelia?” and then answer Numbers 22 through 30.

## *Why Does Everyone Love Amelia?*

America’s love for Amelia Earhart never seems to end. It began when she was the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an airplane. That was in 1928. It was a year after Charles Lindbergh had been the first person to fly across that ocean alone.

Amelia was 30 years old when she crossed the Atlantic, but she was not the pilot. Wilmer Stultz flew the plane from Canada to Wales, a part of Great Britain. Amelia was just a passenger in the plane, which was named *Friendship*.

When the plane landed, Amelia Earhart was the one who got the attention of the world. Thousands of people were waiting to welcome her. Amelia did not feel that she should get all the attention. However, that same year she flew a plane across the U.S.—in both directions! She was the first woman to do that alone. She had become a famous pilot.

In 1930, Amelia Earhart set three world speed records for women pilots. In 1932, she flew across the Atlantic alone. She had always wanted to earn the attention she had received as a passenger. Again, thousands of people were waiting for her plane to arrive. This time she landed in Ireland. When she got back to New York City, the city held a big parade for her.

In 1935, Amelia flew solo from Hawaii to California. It was a longer trip than the one across the Atlantic. Other pilots had tried but had failed. Amelia succeeded.

Amelia got many awards. She was a guest of President Franklin Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor at the White House many times. By 1937, she was ready to try to become the first woman to fly around the world.

Amelia had been teaching at Purdue University in Indiana, so Purdue paid to have a plane built for Amelia. It was a beautiful silver plane, a twin-engine Electra.





Much preparation was needed to get ready for the flight around the world. The trip could not be non-stop, of course. Amelia would fly numerous “legs,” stopping in several places for rest, repairs, and gasoline. Fred Noonan would be in the plane too, as her navigator.



In May 1937, they took off from California. Amelia flew to Miami and then to South America. From there she flew to Africa, Arabia, and Pakistan. Then she flew the Electra to Australia and New Guinea. She had completed about two-thirds of the trip—23,000 miles in six weeks. However, the next leg of the trip was the most difficult because Amelia had to find a small island in the huge Pacific Ocean.

Heading across the Pacific Ocean toward that tiny island, Amelia Earhart’s Electra disappeared. The world was shocked and very sad. The plane with Amelia and Fred Noonan was never found.



The first biography of Amelia Earhart was published in 1939. Since then, many books have been written about her. Today, we still do not know what happened to Amelia Earhart. Her disappearance remains a great mystery.

America is still in love with Amelia Earhart. At the end of the 1990s, people were still writing long, loving articles about her and her mysterious end.

“Why Does Everyone Love Amelia?” Copyright © 2000 Steck-Vaughn Company. Used with permission from Steck-Vaughn Company. All Rights Reserved. Photo of Amelia in Cockpit, © Bettmann/CORBIS. Photo of Amelia next to Aircraft, © Bettmann/CORBIS. Photo of Amelia in Flight Gear, Underwood & Underwood/CORBIS.



Now answer Numbers 22 through 30. Base your answers on the article  
“Why Does Everyone Love Amelia?”

- 22 What was special about Amelia’s flight from Hawaii to California in 1935?
- A. The plane had a new design.
  - B. The plane flew higher than it ever had before.
  - C. The flight was longer than her flight across the Atlantic.
  - D. The flight ended with a warm welcome by thousands of people.
- 23 What happened AFTER Amelia became the first person to fly alone from Hawaii to California?
- F. Amelia enjoyed a parade in New York.
  - G. Amelia prepared to fly around the world.
  - H. Amelia set three world speed records for women pilots.
  - I. Amelia flew a plane across the United States in both directions.





- 25** Why did Amelia try to fly around the world?
- A. She loved mysterious events.
  - B. She wished to visit many different countries.
  - C. She needed the support of the American people.
  - D. She wanted to be the first woman to make the trip.
- 
- 26** Which words from the article have almost the SAME meaning?
- F. beautiful, famous
  - G. earn, find
  - H. flight, trip
  - I. passenger, pilot



- 27** According to the article, what was the challenge Amelia faced on her last flight?
- A. She had to set a new speed record.
  - B. She had to stop several times for gasoline.
  - C. She had to find a little island in the ocean.
  - D. She had to make preparations in a short time.
- 28** Why does the author say that many books and articles have been written about Amelia?
- F. to get people to read more about Amelia and her adventures
  - G. to show that enough has been written about Amelia and her world records
  - H. to point out that Amelia continues to be an important person long after her last flight
  - I. to suggest that writing about Amelia might solve the mystery of her disappearance



- 29 With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?
- A. Amelia had a great sense of adventure.
  - B. Amelia became a teacher in order to get a plane.
  - C. Amelia preferred to be a navigator on the longer flights.
  - D. Amelia had to give up many interests to become a pilot.
- 30 How did Amelia Earhart's actions make her a very important person?
- F. She taught young pilots to take great risks.
  - G. She made improvements to airplanes and flying.
  - H. She proved that women could make flying history.
  - I. She created rules for pilots flying across the Atlantic.



Read the poem "Song for a Cottontail" and then answer Numbers 31 through 36.



## Song for a Cottontail

Wild, wild cottontail rabbit,  
if you hadn't had that itch  
and scratched your ear—  
I never would have seen you there  
in the bounds of long shadow  
cast by afternoon sun,  
safe beneath the quince bush  
protected by bloom and by thorn.

Wild, wild cottontail rabbit,  
you nibble the clover  
cool at your feet.  
Your nose twitches  
with a rhythmic beat.  
You flick your whiskers,  
one pink window-ear.  
Your enormous brown eyes  
never blink, seem to stare.

Wild, wild cottontail rabbit,  
perhaps hearing some sound  
too high-pitched for me,  
or feeling a slight tremor of ground,  
you turn into a statue of stone.  
When I look again, you are gone  
to another world, so near and so far—  
that dark deep thicket of brambles  
in my back yard.

by **Mary C. Snotherly**

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Now answer Numbers 31 through 36. Base your answers on the poem  
"Song for a Cottontail."

- 31** What makes the author first notice the rabbit?
- A. It rubs its ear.
  - B. It turns to stone.
  - C. It makes a sound.
  - D. It eats some grass.
- 32** Why does the author compare the cottontail rabbit to a statue of stone?
- F. Both are gray.
  - G. Both stand still.
  - H. Both have brown eyes.
  - I. Both can stand upright.
- 33** In the poem, the author suggests that the rabbit turns into a statue of stone because it might have felt "a slight tremor of ground."  
What does the author mean by *a slight tremor of ground*?
- A. the ground cooled
  - B. the ground crumbled
  - C. the ground opened up
  - D. the ground shook



**34** What does the rabbit do RIGHT BEFORE it disappears?

- F. It eats grass.
- G. It stands still.
- H. It moves its ears.
- I. It wiggles its nose.

**35** Why does the cottontail rabbit disappear into the bushes?

- A. It is hot.
- B. It is tired.
- C. It is careful.
- D. It is hungry.

**36** Why is the cottontail rabbit difficult to see? Use information and details from the poem AND the picture to support your answer.

READ  
THINK  
EXPLAIN

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Read the article "Busy Builders" and then answer Numbers 37 through 45.

## BUSY BUILDERS

by George Laycock

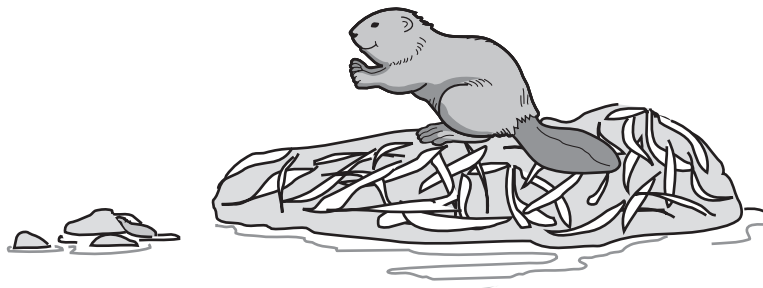
A farmer in Minnesota had a big surprise one morning when he looked out his kitchen window. His beautiful cornfield had turned into a muddy lake.

The farmer rushed out to his truck and hurried to the creek. He discovered that, during the night, a family of beavers had moved in and built a fine new dam across the creek. It was working perfectly, too. Hardly a drop of water was getting through!

The farmer spent many hours tearing down the dam. Finally, the water ran out of his cornfield and back to the flowing creek.

That night the beavers built a new dam. Every night, after the farmer had torn down the dam, the beavers rebuilt it. They used up the trees and the brush. Then they snipped off all of the farmer's corn to build one last dam of cornstalks.

When they finally moved on, they left behind a farmer who never wanted to see such hard-working beavers again!





How does the beaver do it? It sits up on its short hind legs, using its wide, flat tail for balance. It gnaws away at the wood with its long, sharp front teeth until the tree begins to crack. As the tree falls, the beaver dives into the water to keep from being hit!

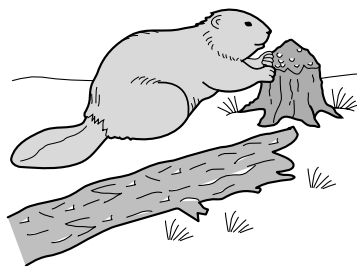
Next, the beaver cuts the tree into smaller pieces that it can push or pull through the water. The lakes and ponds created by beaver dams also provide homes for many other animals.

The beaver feels very safe in the water, where it can escape from wolves, bobcats, bears, and other predators. It can stay underwater for 15 minutes without coming up for air. The beaver's feet have webs between the toes, making each foot a strong paddle for swimming. Thick, waterproof fur protects the beaver from the cold.

In the water, the beaver uses its flat tail to help it steer, like a rudder on a boat. When an enemy comes around, the beaver lifts its heavy tail and slaps it on top of the water. This makes a loud cracking sound like a gunshot that warns other beavers to dive into safe water.

Beavers always seem to be busy cutting trees and building dams or beaver homes. Often they work at night so they can stay out of the way of people. Sometimes, they can be very helpful to people. Wildlife rangers in New Jersey once wanted to flood an area. They wanted to create a new nesting area for water birds. Human experts said it would cost \$25,000.

Then a family of beaver "experts" moved in and built a dam for free! Everyone, including the beavers and birds, was happy.



"Busy Builders" adapted from "The Beaver: Nature's Engineer," copyright © 1989 by George Laycock, published in *Boy's Life's* December 1989 issue. Reprinted by permission of the author.



Now answer Numbers 37 through 45. Base your answers on the article "Busy Builders."

- 37 Why did the beavers in the article use cornstalks instead of wood to rebuild the dam?
- F. The beavers were tired of building with wood.
  - G. The wood had been used up building the other dams.
  - H. The cornstalks were easier to knock down than wood.
  - I. The dam was stronger with cornstalks in place of wood.

- 38 Read the following sentence from the story.

**It gnaws away at the wood with its long, sharp front teeth until the tree begins to crack.**

What does *gnaws* mean in the sentence?

- A. beats
  - B. chews
  - C. pushes
  - D. taps
- 39 What does a beaver do when a tree falls?
- F. returns to its home
  - G. dives under the water
  - H. hides behind another tree
  - I. slaps the pond with its tail



40 What is the main reason beavers make dams?

- A. to catch food
- B. to flood cornfields
- C. to help water birds
- D. to protect themselves

41 Read the following sentence from the story.

**In the water, the beaver uses its flat tail to help it steer, like a rudder on a boat.**

What would the *rudder* on a boat do?

- F. guide the boat
- G. power the boat
- H. keep the boat afloat
- I. make the boat steady



**42** Describe how a beaver builds a dam. Use details and information from the article in your description.

READ  
THINK  
EXPLAIN

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**43** According to the article, how can beaver dams help other animals?

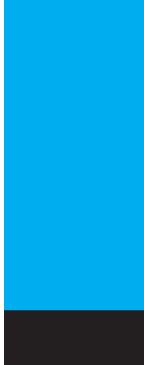
- A. The dams keep humans away.
- B. The dams store water to drink.
- C. The ponds they form keep wolves away.
- D. The ponds they form provide places to live.



- 44** Why did the wildlife rangers in New Jersey want to flood an area?
- F. Some birds needed a place to nest.
  - G. A beaver family needed a place to live.
  - H. Nearby crops needed water to stay alive.
  - I. Local animals needed a pond for drinking.
- 45** How was the dam the beaver “experts” built in New Jersey different from a dam that human experts would have built?
- A. The humans’ dam would have cost more money.
  - B. The humans’ dam would have been better for the beavers.
  - C. The beavers’ dam was bigger than the humans’ dam would have been.
  - D. The beavers’ dam was stronger than the humans’ dam would have been.

**READING**  
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**TEST BOOK**  
**RELEASED OCTOBER 2005**  
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**GRADE**  
**4**



**READING**



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