

# Grade 6

## FCAT Reading

### Sample Questions

The intent of these sample test materials is to orient teachers and students to the types of questions on FCAT tests. By using these materials, students will become familiar with the types of items and response formats that they will see on the actual test. The sample test materials are not intended to demonstrate the length of the actual test, nor should student responses be used as an indicator of student performance on the actual test. Additional information about test items can be found in the *FCAT Test Item Specifications* at <http://fcad.fldoe.org/fcatis01.asp> and previously released FCAT tests at <http://fcad.fldoe.org/fcatrelease.asp>.

When the 2010 FCAT Reading tests and associated sample test materials were developed, the State of Florida was in the process of revising the Sunshine State Standards in Reading and Language Arts. These newer standards were not yet approved for use in Florida's schools, so it was not feasible to incorporate these new standards into the 2010 FCAT Reading tests. The portion of the 2010 FCAT Reading tests that will be used to calculate student results and school grades in 2010 will be composed of items that assess mastery of the 1996 Sunshine State Standards. Because it was also not feasible to develop 2010 field test items to assess mastery of the newer standards, the 2010 FCAT Reading tests will contain field test items that assess mastery of the 2007 Sunshine State Standards. Student performance on these items will not be used to calculate student results or school grades, but data will be gathered and examined so these items can be considered for use on future tests, including those assessing the newer standards.

#### **Directions for Answering the Reading Sample Questions**

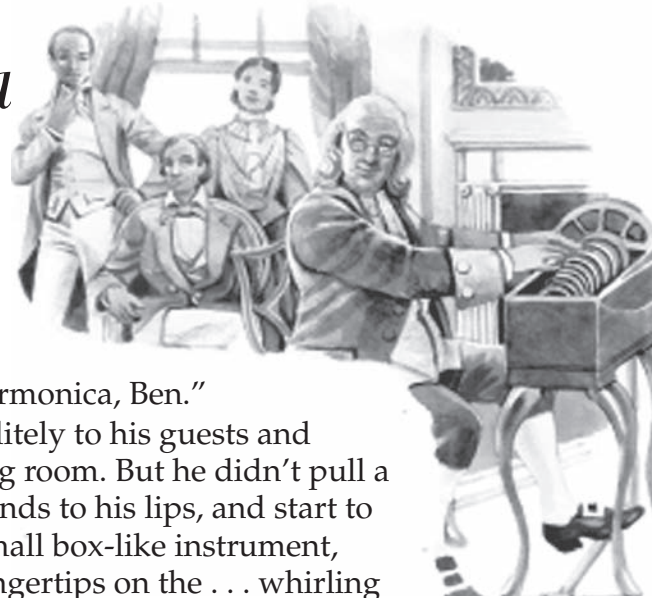
Mark your answers on the Sample Answer Sheet located on page 14. If you don't understand a question, just ask your teacher to explain it to you. Your teacher has the answers to the sample questions. Beginning in 2010, the sample questions will be distributed to students in print and will be available online, but the sample answers for teachers will only be available online at <http://fcad.fldoe.org/fcatsmpl.asp>.

Read the article “Ben’s Harmonica” before answering Numbers 1 through 9.

# Ben’s Harmonica

by Barbara C. Wessinger

Illustration by Barbara Kiwak



“GIVE US A TUNE on your harmonica, Ben.” Ben Franklin nodded politely to his guests and sauntered across his drawing room. But he didn’t pull a mouth organ from his pocket, cup his hands to his lips, and start to blow a tune. Instead, he sat down at a small box-like instrument, pumped its foot pedal, and placed his fingertips on the . . . whirling glass bowls!

Although we know him best as a statesman and scientist, Ben Franklin was also the first American to invent an important musical instrument—the glass harmonica, or *armonica* as Franklin called it. The glass harmonica consisted of a series of graded<sup>1</sup> glass bowls arranged one inside another along the length of a horizontal spindle. Pumping the foot pedal turned the spindle, rotating the bowls through a trough of water inside the instrument. The player applied his or her fingers to the wet rims of the bowls, producing soft, clear tones similar to the sounds you get when you run your finger around the wet rim of a water goblet.<sup>2</sup>

Ben got the idea for the glass harmonica after hearing a talented musician in London perform an entire concert on crystal glasses. Delighted by the dulcet<sup>3</sup> tones, Franklin began thinking of a better way to produce music on glass, something easier to play and transport than individual goblets with varying amounts of water inside. He built the first model of the armonica in 1761 and gradually perfected the instrument. To get tones ranging over three octaves,<sup>4</sup> Ben used thirty-seven glass basins in twenty-three assorted sizes; the thickness of the glass determined the variations in tone for same-sized bowls.

In 1764 a young musician, Stephen Forrage, gave the first glass harmonica concert in Philadelphia, and the audience is said to have admired the “sweetness and delicacy of tone” of the new instrument. For a while the glass harmonica became quite popular in both the United States and Europe. When an English musician, Marriane Davies, introduced it in Vienna in 1773, the seventeen-year-old Mozart was so intrigued<sup>5</sup> that he wrote a composition for the armonica, with parts for flute, oboe, viola, and cello.

<sup>1</sup> **graded:** put in order by size

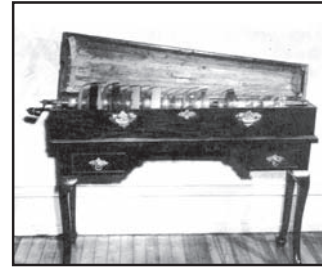
<sup>2</sup> **goblet:** a glass

<sup>3</sup> **dulcet:** sweet-sounding

<sup>4</sup> **octaves:** a series of eight musical tones

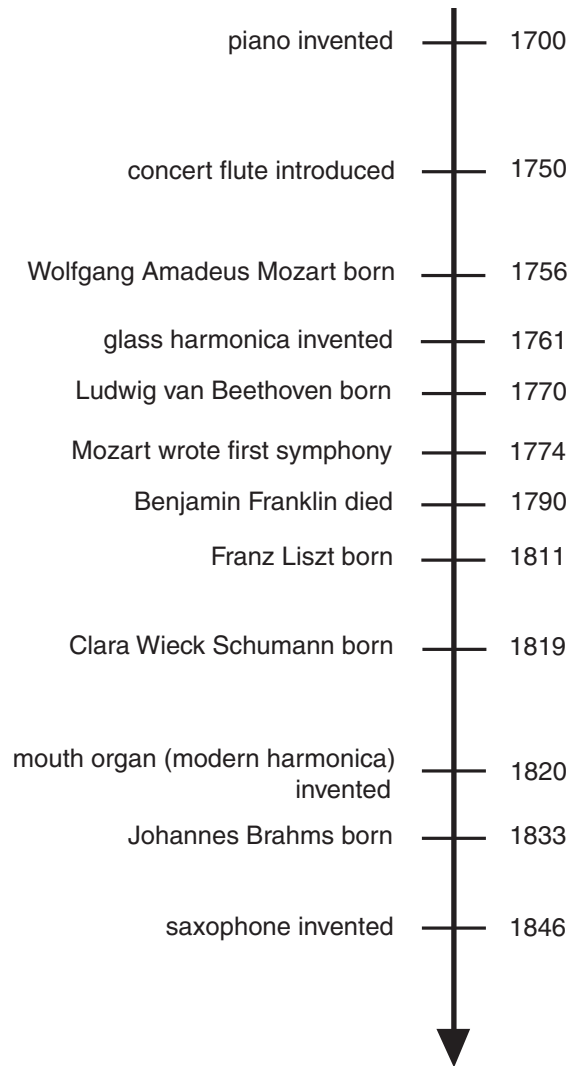
<sup>5</sup> **intrigued:** interested or curious

Although the delicate tones of the glass harmonica were perfect for drawing-room musicales<sup>6</sup> and garden party concerts, the instrument gradually faded from fashion as concert halls grew larger: its soft tones were practically impossible to hear in large auditoriums and theaters, especially over the booming brass of orchestras.



<sup>6</sup> **musicales:** small musical programs

## Time Line of Composers and Musical Events from 1700 to 1850



"Ben's Harmonica." Reprinted by permission of *Cricket* magazine, July 1995, Vol. 22, No. 11, © 1995 by Barbara C. Wessinger. Illustration by Barbara Kiwak. Photograph of Glass Harmonica courtesy of the Historical and Interpretive Collections of The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA.

Now answer Numbers 1 through 9 on your Sample Answer Sheet on page 14. Base your answers on the article "Ben's Harmonica."

- 1 Why is the setting at the beginning of the article important?
- A. The glass harmonica could be easily heard in small spaces.
  - B. The glass harmonica was only played in one part of the world.
  - C. Ben Franklin was the only person who could play the harmonica.
  - D. Ben Franklin needed an audience in order to play the harmonica well.
- 2 Ben Franklin's guests most likely reacted to his first glass harmonica concert with
- F. boredom.
  - G. disappointment.
  - H. laughter.
  - I. surprise.
- 3 Read this excerpt from the article.

**Delighted by the dulcet tones, Franklin began thinking of a better way to produce music on glass . . . He built the first model of the armonica in 1761 and gradually perfected the instrument.**

What does the word *perfected* mean in the excerpt above?

- A. displayed
- B. enlarged
- C. improved
- D. tuned

- 4 Mozart showed that he was impressed by the glass harmonica when he
- F. wrote a composition for the instrument.
  - G. attended a concert given by Stephen Forrage.
  - H. introduced the glass harmonica to audiences in Vienna.
  - I. included a part for the glass harmonica in his first symphony.
- 5 As used in the article, which pair of words are most similar in meaning?
- A. delicate, faded
  - B. assorted, varying
  - C. arranged, ranging
  - D. perform, transport
- 6 How are Forrage and Davies similar?
- F. They were friends of Franklin.
  - G. They played the glass harmonica for Franklin.
  - H. They were asked to write a musical composition.
  - I. They presented the glass harmonica to new audiences.

- 7 Why did the glass harmonica become less popular over time?
- A. The glass harmonica was hard to transport.
  - B. The glass harmonica was a difficult instrument to play.
  - C. The glass harmonica was difficult to hear in large concert halls.
  - D. The glass harmonica was very loud when played in drawing rooms.
- 8 The section *Time Line of Composers and Musical Events* is important to the article because it
- F. estimates the number of musicians influenced by Ben Franklin.
  - G. shows the impact Ben Franklin had on the development of music.
  - H. places Ben Franklin's invention within a framework of other significant musical events.
  - I. illustrates the superiority of Ben Franklin's glass harmonica compared to other musical instruments.
- 9 Based on information in the article, which is the most accurate statement regarding the glass harmonica?
- A. The glass harmonica became popular in both the United States and Europe.
  - B. The glass harmonica was introduced in Europe a year after it was invented.
  - C. The glass harmonica was played in concert halls in Europe by Ben Franklin.
  - D. The glass harmonica became known to Europeans through the music of Mozart.

Read the article “Two-Wheel Fun” before answering Numbers 10 through 16.

## TWO-WHEEL FUN

By Laurence Swinburne and John F. Warner

What is the most popular way to travel in the whole world, not counting a human being’s two legs? You say by car? No. Train? Wrong again. Airplane? I’m sorry, but you’re not even close.

The most popular way of going from one place to another is by bicycle. That’s right. And it is a surprise to most Americans. After all, we see hundreds, even thousands of cars each day. We don’t see nearly as many bikes.

In the United States most bike riders are either young people or adults bicycling for exercise. About nine million bikes are sold in our country each year. Nearly three million are sold for use by adults. The rest are for children between the ages of five and fourteen.

But in the rest of the world, far more people use the bike as their main way of traveling than drive cars. They ride bikes to work, to school, to stores, and to church. Many families even go on vacation on bicycles.



**This early bicycle was invented about 1816. It did not have any pedals. It did have a steering bar connected to the front wheel.**

Perhaps most of these people would rather move about in cars. However, unlike cars and other kinds of machines used for traveling, the bicycle costs less.

Bicycles have been around for a long time—about 300 years. You would not like to ride around on those early bikes, though. They didn’t have any pedals. The riders had to push along with their feet. Of course going downhill was easier. But this bike only went straight ahead. There was no way to turn the front wheel. If the rider wanted to change direction, he or she had to get off and move the bicycle.

When pedals were put on the front wheels, riding became easier. The most popular kind of bike in the late 1800s had a very high front wheel and a small back wheel. It was a long fall to the ground!



**This bicycle was popular around 1870. It had pedals on the front wheel. It also had a brake.**

Another problem was that there were no rubber tires. The bike was very uncomfortable. It's no wonder that one bike was called the "Boneshaker."

Then in the 1880s, air-filled rubber tires were put on the bicycle's wheels. Since then the bicycle has not changed very much. Of course bikes come in different shapes and colors now, but the main design is still the same.



**This was a very popular bicycle in the late 1800s. It was called a "high-wheeler." The front wheel of some models was five feet high.**

### **Bike Sports**

Bicycle racing is a very popular sport in most of the world. It was popular in this country before the car took its place as a major way of moving. From 1898 through 1910, a young black American, Marshall Taylor, was the best racer in the world.

There is a bicycle race in France that covers almost 2,400 miles. It is probably the toughest race in the world. Usually, it takes three weeks to finish.

Bike racing is coming back to the United States, but it still has a long way to go to catch up to the popularity it has in Europe.

Another growing bicycle sport in our country is bike polo. It can be played on a football field. There are four players on each side. The bike riders try to hit a wooden ball with a mallet as they race by. The purpose is to drive the ball through goalposts for a score.

### **Be Safe!**

Thousands of people are hurt each year as a result of bicycle riding. The sad part of this fact is that most of these accidents did not have to happen. If only the people had followed simple safety rules! Here are some you should pay attention to:

1. Stay on the right side of the road.
2. Ride in a single file.
3. Watch all ways for cars before crossing streets.
4. Obey traffic lights and traffic signs.
5. When turning or stopping, use hand signals.
6. Don't "hook on" to a truck, car, or bus with your hand.
7. Most important of all, keep your bike in good condition.

"Two-Wheel Fun" by Lawrence Swinburne and John F. Warner. Reprinted by permission of Virginia Bowman (daughter of Mr. Swinburne) and Margaret B. Warner (wife of Mr. Warner). All rights reserved. "Man riding two-wheeler in England": Copyright © Robin Weaver / Alamy. "Older bicycle model": Copyright © Stockbyte Silver / Alamy. "Old boneshaker bicycle": Copyright © Cols Travel / Alamy.

Now answer Numbers 10 through 16 on your Sample Answer Sheet on page 14. Base your answers on the article "Two-Wheel Fun."

- 10 How do the authors organize the article's first two paragraphs?
- F. They describe a major event and show its effect on bicycle popularity.
  - G. They pose questions that are answered with information about bicycles.
  - H. They list successes in the development of bicycles in the order they occurred.
  - I. They present a problem about travel and the solution through the use of bicycles.
- 11 According to the article, what was the greatest threat to riders of the "high-wheeler" in the late 1800s?
- A. the steering problems caused by two wheel sizes
  - B. the awkward attachment of pedals to the front wheel
  - C. the elevation of the driver's seat above the front wheel
  - D. the increase in speed created by one wheel's larger size
- 12 An early bicycle was nicknamed "The Boneshaker" mainly because it
- F. had no pedals to control its operating speed.
  - G. wandered because of having no steering bar.
  - H. had no balance because of its two wheel sizes.
  - I. trembled because the tires had little cushioning.

- 13 According to the article, bike polo is different from bike racing because bike polo
- A. is more popular.
  - B. requires more space.
  - C. is played on a football field.
  - D. allows a flexible number of players.

- 14 Read this sentence from the article.

**The purpose is to drive the ball through goalposts for a score.**

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

- F. Carlos had the drive to be the best in his class.
- G. Tara will drive the car the entire way on the family vacation.
- H. He informed the customer that the new car would drive well.
- I. She will drive the nail into the wall before hanging the picture.

- 15 The authors wrote this article about bicycles to
- A. persuade readers to bicycle for exercise.
  - B. inform readers about the history of bicycles.
  - C. amuse readers with the different shapes of bicycles.
  - D. warn readers about bicycle safety when riding in pairs.
- 16 Which statement is best supported by information in the article?
- F. Saving money is the main reason to ride a bicycle.
  - G. Riding a bicycle should include following basic safety rules.
  - H. Modern bicycles are fundamentally different from the first bicycle.
  - I. Riding bicycles while on vacation is a widespread practice among families.

Read the website “Marksdale State Park” before answering Numbers 17 through 19.



## Welcome to Marksdale State Park

Where fun, fitness, and education come together



[Find a State Park](#) [Trail Map/Directions](#) [Camping/Lodging](#) [Fees/Schedules](#) [Nature Information](#)

Don't miss our new sizzling summer classes available May 23–Aug 5!!

- **Swimming lessons:** Ages 4–adult Cost: \$5 per class or \$15 for one month.
- **Hiking:** Have a state park ranger hike through our trails with you and teach you about the park's wildlife and plants. We have a number of endangered plants and animals that our park helps protect. Click [here](#) to learn more today!
- **Soccer:** Our youth soccer program is unusual in that it is non-competitive. Different teams are formed every day. The focus is on individuals learning new skills and learning to work as a team, not on one team winning it all.
- **Boating:** These classes are for adults only. See director for fees and schedule. Fishing allowed with permit only.
- **Bicycling:** Our trails are built to accommodate bicyclists. Signs are posted for self-guided tours of our park. Group cycling is also available with a park guide. Trails range from easy to challenging.

### A Message from the Director:

Hiking trails! Sport fields! Playgrounds! Campgrounds! Water activities! Located on Lake McQueeney, Marksdale State Park offers something for everyone. Marksdale is a perfect spot for a hot summer day. Sign up for one of our new summer community classes or take a camping trip with your friends or family. Our facilities are set up with modern systems, so you don't have to rough it to enjoy nature—unless you want to!

Glen Harwood, Park Director

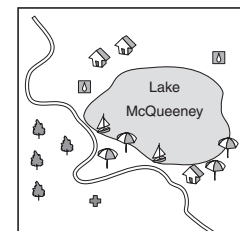
**Award for the Spring Photography Contest:** Congratulations to Melissa Rhoades, a sophomore at Marksdale High School! Her winning shot was of a young girl catching her first baseball on our field. Chosen for the look of supreme joy on the girl's face, we feel the picture offered a first-rate look at what it means to visit our park. Learning new skills and having fun are two things we are all about. Come play!

**Special note about trash in our park:** In an effort to keep our park clean, for your sake and that of our wildlife, we have placed trash cans and recycling bins with secure lids throughout the park. Please ensure that the lids are on tightly when you are finished. It keeps our raccoon friends from getting into things they shouldn't! Their curiosity and their fine motor skills are impressive! Your cooperation is appreciated.



Are you 13–17 years old? Ever wonder what it would be like to be a park ranger? It's a competitive field, but you can get ahead by volunteering with our Teen Ranger Program. Depending on your age and responsibilities, you can even earn college credit for certain universities!

KEY	
	Cabin available
	Restrooms/showers
	Boat docking area
	Beach area
	Trees, hiking, trails
	Highway 41
	First Aid Station



“Marksdale State Park” property of the Florida Department of Education.

Now answer Numbers 17 through 19 on your Sample Answer Sheet on page 14. Base your answers on the website “Marksdale State Park.”

- 17 The section *Special note about trash in our park* is different from the other sections of the website because it
- A. uses humor in the message.
  - B. addresses adults rather than teenagers.
  - C. offers volunteer opportunities for teenagers.
  - D. uses exclamation marks for specific directions.
- 18 How does the author organize the information in this website?
- F. by listing events and activities for the visitors
  - G. by answering questions created by the visitors
  - H. by explaining the meaning of the map to the visitors
  - I. by comparing the tasks of park rangers to those of visitors
- 19 Which text feature of the website provides the most accurate information about the locations of Marksdale State Park facilities?
- A. the map and key
  - B. the subtitle and graphics
  - C. the message written by the director
  - D. the list of activities shown in the column

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer all the Reading Sample Questions on this Sample Answer Sheet.

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)

8 (F) (G) (H) (I)

14 (F) (G) (H) (I)

2 (F) (G) (H) (I)

9 (A) (B) (C) (D)

15 (A) (B) (C) (D)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

10 (F) (G) (H) (I)

16 (F) (G) (H) (I)

4 (F) (G) (H) (I)

11 (A) (B) (C) (D)

17 (A) (B) (C) (D)

5 (A) (B) (C) (D)

12 (F) (G) (H) (I)

18 (F) (G) (H) (I)

6 (F) (G) (H) (I)

13 (A) (B) (C) (D)

19 (A) (B) (C) (D)

7 (A) (B) (C) (D)





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