

Colorado Measures of Academic Success



Grade 6

English Language Arts/Literacy



Paper Practice Resource for Students

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The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) is Colorado’s standards-based assessment program designed to measure the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) in the content areas of science, social studies, English language arts, and mathematics. The sample items included in this resource provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with the format of test items that appear in the paper-based test books.

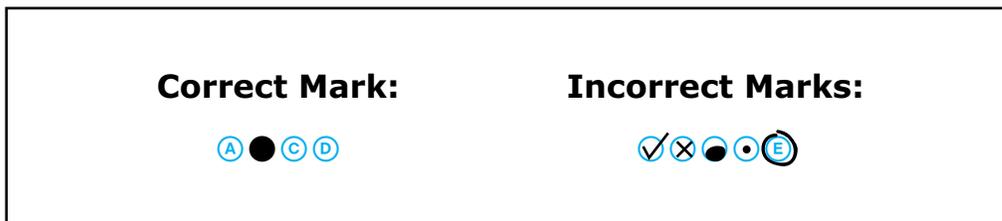
While the use of the sample items is not required, it is strongly encouraged to help ensure students are familiar with the types of items they may encounter while taking the paper-based test.

The sample item sets in the CMAS Practice Resources are not intended to be representative of a complete unit or test, nor are they intended to cover all assessed content or item types. To view assessment frameworks, high level blueprints, scoring rubrics, evidence statements and standards for the CMAS assessments, visit: https://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas_testdesign.

Item Types:

Selected Response Items

Selected response items are multiple choice questions. To respond, the student indicates their response by filling in the circle(s) next to their answer choice.



Constructed Response Items

Constructed response items are questions or prompts that require an independent, written response. To respond, the student writes his or her answer in the response box in the test book.

Converted Online Technology-Enhanced Item Types

Online technology-enhanced items converted to the paper testing format may ask students to:

- Circle the correct answer
- Complete a table with checkmarks, Xs, or letters from a list of answer choices
- Fill in the blank
- Draw lines from boxes to correct answers
- Complete a bar graph or histogram

ITEM SET 1

Today you will research elephants. You will read passages from three sources, "Wild Elephants Sleep for Only Two Hours at Night," "Elephants Appear to Be Super Sniffers," and "Elephant All-Wheel Drive." As you review these sources, you will gather information about elephants so you can write a response.

Read the passage from "Wild Elephants Sleep for Only Two Hours at Night." Then answer questions 1 through 3.

from "Wild Elephants Sleep for Only Two Hours at Night"

by Susan Milius

- 1 Wild African elephants may break sleep records for mammals. New data show that they seem to get by just fine on about two hours of shut-eye a night. Much of that snoozing took place while they were standing up. The animals lie down to sleep only once every three to four nights.
- 2 Trying to figure out how much wild elephants sleep just by watching them 24 hours a day is tricky, especially in the dark. Much of what scientists had known about sleeping elephants came from animals living in captivity, notes Paul Manger. He is a neuroscientist, or brain researcher, at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. In zoos and enclosures, elephants have been recorded snoozing from about three hours to nearly seven during a 24-hour period.
- 3 Using electronic monitors on African elephants in the wild, however, has turned up more extreme behavior. That two-hour average snooze is the least sleep recorded for any mammal species.
- 4 Game rangers familiar with wild African elephants had claimed these animals almost never slept. The new data seem to now confirm they were right.

What they learned

- 5 Manger and his colleagues implanted activity monitors (similar to Fitbit trackers) in the trunks of two elephants. Both were matriarchs (female leaders) of their herds in the Chobe National Park. It lies in northern Botswana, a nation in southern Africa.
- 6 The trunk on these animals is "250 pounds of muscle," Manger says. That's why, he says, these moms would hardly have noticed the small tracker implants.

- 7 Trunks, like human hands, are important for exploring the world. Elephants rarely keep them still—unless sleeping. The researchers assumed that a trunk monitor that didn't move for at least five minutes likely meant its host was asleep. Neck collars helped researchers figure out whether animals were standing up or lying down.
- 8 The electronic devices tracked the animals over about a month. During that time, the elephants averaged just two hours of sleep a day. What's more, the elephants were able to skip a night's sleep without needing extra naps the next day.
- 9 Those trunk implants showed there were times the elephants went up to 46 hours without any sleep. A predator, poacher or a male elephant loose in the neighborhood might explain their restlessness, Manger says. Animals in captivity don't face the same dangers.

What to make of the findings

- 10 There has been some thought that sleep restores or resets aspects of the brain for peak performance. But that can't explain animals, like the elephants, that skip sleep for a night without needing catch-up rest later, says Niels Rattenborg, who was not involved in the new research. He studies bird sleep.
- 11 The new data don't fit well with the notion that animals need sleep to store memories properly. "Elephants are usually not considered to be forgetful animals," Rattenborg observes. In fact, he notes, studies have found plenty of evidence that they can have long memories.
- 12 Until now, horses were the record-holders for needing the least sleep. They can get by with just 2 hours, 53 minutes of sleep, Manger says. At 3 hours, 20 minutes, donkeys weren't far behind.
- 13 These results join a growing body of data showing that wild animals don't need as much sleep as had been suggested by studies of animals in captivity, Rattenborg says. His monitoring of wild sloths, for instance, revealed they aren't nearly as slothful as captive members of their species.
- 14 It's unclear how these findings for two females will translate to entire elephant populations. But the data do fit a trend that links larger species with shorter sleep and smaller species with longer sleep, Manger says.

From "Wild Elephants Sleep for Only Two Hours at Night" by Susan Milius from SCIENCE NEWS FOR STUDENTS, April 3, 2017. Copyright © 2017 by Society for Science and the Public.

1. Part A

What is the meaning of the phrase **in captivity** as it is used in paragraph 2 of the passage from "Wild Elephants Sleep for Only Two Hours at Night"?

- Ⓐ away from humans
- Ⓑ under observation
- Ⓒ being confined
- Ⓓ feeling alert

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ ". . . a neuroscientist, or brain researcher . . ." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ "In zoos and enclosures . . ." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓒ "Using electronic monitors . . ." (paragraph 3)
- Ⓓ ". . . more extreme behavior." (paragraph 3)

2. Write the letters in the box of **three** details necessary for a summary of the passage from "Wild Elephants Sleep for Only Two Hours at Night." Details can be used only once.

Details

- A. Data collected from a one-month period showed that elephants required little sleep.
- B. Elephant trunks perform many of the same functions as human hands.
- C. Researchers used data from trunk implants as an important part of their study.
- D. Results of tracking two female elephants support the idea that large animals need less sleep.
- E. Evidence shows that animals must rest in order to restore memory.
- F. Observing elephants for extended periods of time is extremely difficult.

Details Necessary for a Summary

3. Part A

In the passage from “Wild Elephants Sleep for Only Two Hours at Night,” how does paragraph 2 contribute to the meaning of the passage?

- Ⓐ It explains why the belief that animals need sleep to restore their brains must be incorrect.
- Ⓑ It suggests that it is easier to study animals in a zoo than animals in their natural habitat.
- Ⓒ It supports the claim that some animals can sleep standing upright during the night.
- Ⓓ It implies that some animals can survive on much less sleep than other animals.

Part B

Which evidence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . African elephants may break sleep records for mammals.” (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ “The animals lie down to sleep only once every three to four nights.” (paragraph 1)
- Ⓒ “Trying to figure out how much wild elephants sleep just by watching them 24 hours a day is tricky, especially in the dark.” (paragraph 2)
- Ⓓ “. . . elephants have been recorded snoozing from about three hours to nearly seven during a 24-hour period.” (paragraph 2)

Read the passage from “Elephants Appear to Be Super Sniffers.” Then answer questions 4 through 6.

from “Elephants Appear to Be Super Sniffers”

by Nsikan Akpan

- 1 Everyone knows that African elephants boast versatile snouts. They can toss logs, grab food and spray water. But the towering mammals also may be the world’s best smellers.
- 2 The team looked at bush elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). These are the larger of Africa’s two species. They tend to live in fairly open, grassy areas (hence the term “bush” in their common name). This species hosts some 2,000 different genes for sensing odors. Scientists refer to these sensors as *olfactory receptors*; olfaction (Oll-FAK-shun) refers to the sense of smell. These sensors are found on the outside of scent-sensing cells. They’re in a nasal cavity, near the top of the animal’s trunk.
- 3 Renowned sniffers like rats have around 1,200 genes for scent-sensing. Bloodhounds and other dogs get by with about 800 of these different genes. Humans and other primates possess relatively poor sniffers. They also have only about 40 olfactory genes.
- 4 The researchers think that long ago, when mammals split into a broad range of new species, the original smell-sensing gene began copying itself-and morphing somewhat—over and over again. This appears to have happened the most in ancestors of today’s elephants.
- 5 The elephant’s ability to detect a broad range of odors perhaps explains why scents play a big role in its behavior. African elephants, for instance, can communicate aggression via scents. And the animals also can distinguish people from two ethnic groups living near them in East Africa—the Maasai and Kamba. That’s helpful because the Maasai herders, in Kenya, hunt elephants. Mostly farmers, the Kamba pose no threat to the pachyderms.

“Elephants appear to be super sniffers” by Nsikan Akpan from SCIENCE NEWS FOR STUDENTS, July 30, 2014. Copyright © 2014 by Society for Science and the Public.

4. Part A

What does the word **nasal** mean as it is used in paragraph 2 of the passage from "Elephants Appear to Be Super Sniffers"?

- Ⓐ coming from careful research
- Ⓑ coming from a distant place
- Ⓒ relating to the teeth
- Ⓓ relating to the nose

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 2 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "The team looked at bush elephants. . . ."
- Ⓑ "Scientists refer to these sensors as . . ."
- Ⓒ ". . . refers to the sense of smell."
- Ⓓ ". . . cavity, near the top . . ."

5. Part A

Which sentence **best** states the central idea of the passage from "Elephants Appear to Be Super Sniffers"?

- Ⓐ Bush elephants mainly use their trunks to communicate aggression.
- Ⓑ Bush elephants have many unusually sensitive olfactory receptors.
- Ⓒ Bush elephants are one of two types of elephants native to Africa.
- Ⓓ Bush elephants use their trunks for many different purposes.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "They can toss logs, grab food and spray water." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ "These are the larger of Africa's two species." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓒ "This species hosts some 2,000 different genes for sensing odors." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓓ "This appears to have happened the most in ancestors of today's elephants." (paragraph 4)

6. Circle the correct answer in **each** box to complete the sentence.

The author of the passage from "Elephants Appear to Be Super Sniffers" uses _____ to organize the information in

comparison and contrast
order of importance
chronological order
cause and effect

paragraphs 2 and 3 in order to emphasize the _____.

reasons for differences in species
steps involved in elephant research
importance of olfactory receptors
unique ability of elephants

Read the passage from "Elephant All-Wheel Drive." Then answer questions 7 and 8.

from "Elephant All-Wheel Drive"

by Stephen Ornes

- 1 Elephants are hard to miss. Whether you're strolling through the zoo, cruising through the African savanna or touring the jungles of Southeast Asia, they're the largest of the living land animals. And like many other land animals, they've got four legs to move them around.
- 2 In a recent study, a team of scientists found a clever way to study the elephants' walk. And it showed that the giant animals used their legs in a surprising way, a way unlike that used by most other four-legged animals, or quadrupeds.
- 3 Most quadrupeds push with their back legs and use their front legs as brakes. (One of the easiest animals to imagine moving in this way is a bunny.) Elephants, however, use all four legs to both move forward and slow down. John Hutchinson works at the Royal Veterinary College in London. And he sees a similarity to all-terrain vehicles, in which every wheel contributes equally.
- 4 Elephants "really do seem to act like four-wheel-drive vehicles, cruising along." Hutchinson, along with other scientists, worked with elephant experts at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center in Lampang, Thailand.
- 5 Watching an elephant walk may seem like an easy afternoon. But finding a way to understand the science is anything but simple. It's such a difficult study that until now, no one had ever looked closely. After all, if you watch an elephant, it's tough to tell how much its legs are bending.
- 6 The scientists installed heavy-duty scales in the ground to keep track of how much of each elephant's weight hit the ground as it ran. Then, they attached light-reflecting disks (similar to the ones on bicycles) to parts of the elephants' legs and bodies. Finally, they sent the elephants walking over the scales-and used seven special cameras to record how those reflective disks moved.

- 7 The measurements showed that elephants use their front legs to move forward, which is different from most quadrupeds. Much different-the scientists actually found that elephants use their front legs in a way that's similar to the way human beings walk. That was a surprising discovery, since scientists used to think that elephants' legs were not very bendable.
- 8 "We think we can consider elephant limbs as a kind of big human limb," says Lei Ren, a scientist at the University of Manchester in England who also worked on the study.

From "Elephant all-wheel drive" by Stephen Ornes from SCIENCE NEWS FOR STUDENTS, April 14, 2010. Copyright © 2010 by Society for Science and the Public.

7. Part A

Which statement **best** describes why a scientist compares elephants to a certain type of vehicle in the passage from "Elephant All-Wheel Drive"?

- Ⓐ Elephants rarely use their front and back legs at the same time.
- Ⓑ Elephants are able to travel through different landscapes.
- Ⓒ Elephants use all four legs for moving and stopping.
- Ⓓ Elephants rarely use their front legs as brakes.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ ". . . cruising through the African savanna or touring the jungles of Southeast Asia . . ." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ ". . . a team of scientists found a clever way to study the elephants' walk." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓒ ". . . he sees a similarity to all-terrain vehicles, in which every wheel contributes equally." (paragraph 3)
- Ⓓ ". . . the scientists actually found that elephants use their front legs in a way that's similar to the way human beings walk." (paragraph 7)

8. Part A

Which phrase **best** describes the author’s purpose in the passage from “Elephant All-Wheel Drive”?

- Ⓐ to describe the difference between elephants and other quadrupeds
- Ⓑ to demonstrate how elephants and all-terrain vehicles are similar
- Ⓒ to provide details about a new study on how elephants walk
- Ⓓ to show how elephants and humans use their legs similarly

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “And it showed that the giant animals used their legs in a surprising way, a way unlike that used by most other four-legged animals, or quadrupeds.” (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ “Elephants, however, use all four legs to both move forward and slow down.” (paragraph 3)
- Ⓒ “Elephants `really do seem to act like four-wheel-drive vehicles, cruising along.” (paragraph 4)
- Ⓓ “Finally, they sent the elephants walking over the scales—and used seven special cameras to record how those reflective disks moved.” (paragraph 6)

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A large rectangular area with a pink border, containing 20 horizontal blue lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the page.

Today you will read a passage from *Hatchet* and the poem “A Letter in October” that show how people respond to nature. Then you will answer questions.

Read the passage from *Hatchet*. Then answer questions 10 and 11.

from *Hatchet*

by Gary Paulsen

- 1 But perhaps more than his body was the change in his mind, or in the way he was—was becoming.
- 2 I am not the same, he thought. I see, I hear differently. He did not know when the change started, but it was there; when a sound came to him now he didn't just hear it but would know the sound. He would swing and look at it—a breaking twig, a movement of air—and know the sound as if he somehow could move his mind back down the wave of sound to the source.
- 3 He could know what the sound was before he quite realized he had heard it. And when he saw something—a bird moving a wing inside a bush or a ripple on the water—he would truly see that thing, not just notice it as he used to notice things in the city. He would see all parts of it; see the whole wing, the feathers, see the color of the feathers, see the bush, and the size and shape and color of its leaves. He would see the way the light moved with the ripples on the water and see that the wind made the ripples and which way that wind had to blow to make the ripples move in that certain way.
- 4 None of that used to be in Brian and now it was a part of him, a changed part of him, a grown part of him, and the two things, his mind and his body, had come together as well, had made a connection with each other that he didn't quite understand. When his ears heard a sound or his eyes saw a sight his mind took control of his body. Without his thinking, he moved to face the sound or sight, moved to make ready for it, to deal with it.
- 5 There were these things to do.
- 6 When the wood was done he decided to get a signal fire ready. He moved to the top of the rock ridge that comprised the bluff over his shelter and was pleased to find a large, flat stone area.

7 More wood, he thought, moaning inwardly. He went back to the fallen trees and found more dead limbs, carrying them up on the rock until he had enough for a bonfire. Initially he had thought of making a signal fire every day but he couldn't—he would never be able to keep the wood supply going. So while he was working he decided to have the fire ready and if he heard an engine, or even thought he heard a plane engine, he would run up with a burning limb and set off the signal fire.

8 Things to do.

9 At the last trip to the top of the stone bluff with wood he stopped, sat on the point overlooking the lake, and rested. The lake lay before him, twenty or so feet below, and he had not seen it this way since he had come in with the plane. Remembering the crash he had a moment of fear, a breath-tightening little rip of terror, but it passed and he was quickly caught up in the beauty of the scenery.

10 It was so incredibly beautiful that it was almost unreal. From his height he could see not just the lake but across part of the forest, a green carpet, and it was full of life.

From HATCHET by Gary Paulsen. Reprinted with the permission of Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division. All rights reserved.

10. Part A

What does the word **unreal** convey as it is used in paragraph 10 of the passage from *Hatchet*?

- Ⓐ lacking substance
- Ⓑ not genuine
- Ⓒ imaginary
- Ⓓ artificial

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 10 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "incredibly beautiful"
- Ⓑ "almost"
- Ⓒ "a green carpet"
- Ⓓ "full of life"

11. Part A

Which statement **best** expresses a theme of the passage from *Hatchet*?

- Ⓐ Being alone leads to a greater appreciation of nature.
- Ⓑ Nature is better faced with others rather than alone.
- Ⓒ A person makes better choices when alone.
- Ⓓ Time by oneself leads to self-reflection.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "I am not the same, he thought." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ "When his ears heard a sound or his eyes saw a sight his mind took control of his body." (paragraph 4)
- Ⓒ "When the wood was done he decided to get a signal fire ready." (paragraph 6)
- Ⓓ "Remembering the crash he had a moment of fear, a breath-tightening little rip of terror, but it passed and he was quickly caught up in the beauty of the scenery." (paragraph 9)

Read the poem "A Letter in October." Then answer questions 12 and 13.

A Letter in October

by Ted Kooser

Dawn comes later and later now,
and I, who only a month ago
could sit with coffee every morning
watching the light walk down the hill
5 to the edge of the pond and place
a doe there, shyly drinking,

then see the light step out upon
the water, sowing reflections
to either side—a garden
10 of trees that grew as if by magic—
now see no more than my face,
mirrored by darkness, pale and odd,

startled by time. While I slept,
night in its thick winter jacket
15 bridled the doe with a twist
of wet leaves and led her away,
then brought its black horse with harness
that creaked like a cricket, and turned

the water garden under. I woke,
20 and at the waiting window found
the curtains open to my open face;
beyond me, darkness. And I,
who only wished to keep looking out,
must now keep looking in.

"A Letter in October" from WEATHER CENTRAL by Ted Kooser, © 1994. All rights are controlled by the University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Reprinted by permission of the University of Pittsburgh Press.

12. Write the letters for the correct words that complete the paragraph to show how a change in the speaker is developed throughout the poem "A Letter in October."

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

In stanza 1, the speaker looking out the window, observing the beauty of nature, and maybe watching a deer drink at the pond. However, time . By the end of stanza 2, the mornings are dark and the speaker cannot see out the window, which now a mirror. By the final stanza, this circumstance the speaker to think about personal issues rather than about the outside world.

13. Circle the correct response in each box to complete an analysis of how stanza 2 fits into the overall structure of the poem "A Letter in October."

Stanza 2 reveals the _____ the mornings before and

similarities between
contrast between
importance of

after the approach of winter. Before winter approaches, the light creates reflections on the pond; after winter arrives, the world is _____ and the speaker can only see his reflection. Stanza 2,

much colder
in darkness
forbidding

therefore, provides an important _____: the rest of the

turning point
explanation
conclusion

poem focuses on darkness and the speaker's sense of _____.

fear
indifference
reflection

Refer to the passage from *Hatchet* and the poem "A Letter in October." Then answer question 14.

14. Part A

There is an important difference between Brian's relationship with nature in the passage from *Hatchet* and the speaker's relationship with nature in the poem "A Letter in October." Which statement **best** describes that difference?

- (A) Brian's feelings for nature remain the same, while the speaker's feelings for nature change.
- (B) Brian's interaction with nature is temporary, while the speaker's interaction is permanent.
- (C) Brian experiences nature firsthand, while the speaker observes nature from a distance.
- (D) Brian sees nature as cruel, while the speaker sees nature as neutral.

Part B

Which sentence **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) Brian is living in nature, while the speaker watches nature through glass.
- (B) Brian is using his ears and eyes, while the speaker is using his eyes only.
- (C) Brian has to work hard, while the speaker observes at his leisure.
- (D) Brian needs to be rescued, while the speaker is physically safe.

Refer to the passage from *Hatchet* and the poem "A Letter in October." Then answer question 15.

- 15.** Read each theme in the table and write an **X** in each row to select whether it is emphasized in the passage from *Hatchet*, in the poem "A Letter in October," or in both. Write only one **X** in each row.

Theme	From <i>Hatchet</i>	"A Letter in October"	Both
Nature changes a person.			
Nature can become a part of an individual.			
Nature moves a person to self-examination.			
Nature's seasonal changes affect a person powerfully.			

This is the end of Item Set 1.

