



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Australasian Version

Benchmark

Grade 3

Student Materials

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| selection | lightning | skill | tale | ruin |
| twist | feet | bottom | brand | creature |
| valuable | song | wait | percent | brief |
| pie | favour | shame | popular | pick |
| touch | ball | dog | attack | kilometre |
| wire | prepare | shot | childhood | enjoy |
| relation | reward | motion | trace | royal |
| operation | sang | sad | label | improvement |
| journey | sensible | pride | husband | shell |
| arise | dive | covering | decide | expression |
| beam | plus | restaurant | hurry | picture |
| explain | behaviour | clue | bush | loud |
| fail | grain | showing | strike | relax |
| bet | elementary | treat | building | taste |
| stage | fear | icy | girl | combine |
| grass | port | blonde | ceiling | leap |
| hollow | reflection | waist | eager | thirty |
| backward | zone | jay | comedy | adventure |
| flower | crop | chase | pin | cloud |
| grin | everyday | rotation | pan | hello |
| nurse | cruel | belly | surrender | blew |
| tonne | instantly | shelf | sauce | tin |

Sponges

Most people have a sponge or two in their kitchen. A sponge is handy for washing dishes and wiping counters. Most of our sponges are made by machines, out of wood fibre or plastic. But before man-made sponges were invented, people used natural sponges.

A natural sponge is, in fact, an animal. It lives in the ocean. It has no eyes or mouth. It has no organs at all. It cannot swim. It is anchored to a rock and feeds on the bacteria in the water that flows through it.

For hundreds of years, people in the Greek islands fished for sponges. A sponge diver dived from his boat wearing only a rope around his waist. He carried a heavy stone, which took him quickly to the ocean floor. He could hold his breath for three to five minutes at a time. He used a small curved knife to cut the sponges from the rocks. He took as many as he could before his breath ran out, and put them in a net bag.

When diving suits were invented, sponge divers began to use them. The suits let them stay on the ocean floor longer. They could dive deeper. They brought up more sponges than they had been able to before. But the divers had to be careful to avoid decompression sickness, which could kill or injure them.

Now there are very few sponge divers left. Most people use man-made sponges, which are cheaper. Also, the number of sponges living in the ocean has been reduced by pollution.

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| tiny | repair | beat | fish | adopt |
| families | mount | pass | won | nation |
| prove | explain | kept | pilot | plane |
| furniture | reader | distant | fair | sweat |
| improve | examine | ball | branch | ticket |
| absence | enormous | artistic | chin | mouse |
| soft | phone | loaded | arrest | southern |
| fix | correct | drew | enter | cape |
| stadium | classroom | outer | luck | twice |
| peak | pain | feed | hat | focus |
| counter | arrive | pen | label | gone |
| journal | zero | workshop | traffic | portable |
| holder | everywhere | border | flood | dive |
| billion | television | anyway | sunny | verse |
| restaurant | grand | scientist | pity | painting |
| unfair | antenna | map | whoever | toilet |
| candy | eager | penalty | slid | locate |
| scent | steady | grey | palace | jungle |
| marry | jay | refuse | gentleman | lobby |
| begun | horrible | rage | dislike | chip |
| railroad | precious | deer | surrender | hardware |

Why We Need Water

There are many reasons we need to drink water. The cells in our bodies need it to help us live and grow. The water we drink gets rid of waste that we have inside of us. It also controls how hot or cool our body is. Water is in everything we eat and drink.

We must replace the water that our body sweats out. It can make our skin dry and give us a headache. If we don't drink water it can make it hard for us to pay attention. Our body may also feel very tired. Without water, our body cannot fight off colds. Our body is more than half water.

We can get dehydrated when we do not have enough water in our bodies. Water leaves our bodies in many ways. Some of these ways are when we use the toilet and sweat. Playing sports and being outside in the heat for long periods of time can make our bodies sweat. When our body sweats it loses water.

We can live for about fifty days without eating any food. We can only live a few days without drinking water. This is why we need to drink a lot of water.

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| crack | fill | leg | drink | holiday |
| exercise | daily | enemy | anybody | yesterday |
| distant | cliff | mighty | lift | father |
| describe | scent | relative | willing | alert |
| improve | prepare | ease | grass | candy |
| stable | abandoned | shift | holder | reverse |
| eager | jay | chair | telephone | raw |
| exchange | buy | dinner | babies | map |
| drill | temperature | favourite | argument | truck |
| hot | plug | enjoy | belly | journal |
| fault | destroy | bell | plain | patient |
| ahead | trick | plans | begin | pit |
| pin | measurement | leap | bend | stranger |
| detective | wrapped | bull | communicate | northwest |
| musician | tank | noon | fog | egg |
| warn | struck | precious | cabinet | pile |
| marry | stopping | backward | tires | invite |
| hunter | pickup | incomplete | neighbour | corn |
| refuse | fever | circular | flame | knight |

Trees

A tree is a tall plant that is made of wood. Trees can live for many, many years. A tree has roots, a trunk, branches, and leaves.

The roots are underground, but sometimes you can see them sticking out of the dirt. The roots help to keep the tree in place and they also get the food that the tree needs from the soil in the ground. The roots send the food to the trunk. The trunk is like a water pipe. It carries the food to the branches for the leaves.

Some trees never lose their leaves and their leaves always stay green. These trees are called evergreen. The leaves on some other trees change colours when the seasons change. In the autumn you will see red, yellow and orange leaves. In the winter, you will see a few trees without any leaves at all.

Leaves change colours because the tree does not get a lot of light from the sun. Trees need to save some food to live when there is not much sun and so they cannot give it all to the leaves. The leaves cannot live without the food and that is why they fall off.