



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 7

Student Materials

Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he takes a school _____ to go to school. In the _____, he also takes a bus home.



Correct: _____

Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

Fireflies

Do fireflies live near you? If so, you would see them twilight in the summer.

Fireflies are type of winged beetle that lights like a small lamp. Their

abdomens up to warn predators, attract prey, attract mates. There are around

2,000 of fireflies. However, fireflies all over world are endangered and

their populations falling. It is now increasingly rare see them on summer

nights.

Fireflies in temperate and tropical climates in , wooded areas. So

you are more to see them if you live the countryside or in a wooded

than in a city. They hibernate winter by burrowing underground or

under bark of trees. In the spring, emerge and begin feeding. They like

Keep going 

live near streams or ponds where young will have lots of sources food. Their diets are varied. Some eat slugs and snails while some on just plant nectar.

The ability light up is enabled by a process called bioluminescence. The enzyme luciferase on a compound called luciferin in presence of oxygen and other chemical . This is what produces light in firefly's abdomen. Fireflies flash these lights patterns to attract mates or prey. some areas of the world, swarms fireflies have been observed to flash lights in unison. For example, the Thailand synchronizes itself perfectly to other fireflies that large groups of fireflies flash lights on and off at the

Keep going 

time. If you stand on a _____ in Southeast Asia at dusk, you _____ see these fireflies light up an _____ mangrove forest by switching on their _____ at the same instant then turning _____ off at the same instant. People _____ seen these fireflies say that the _____ is beautiful and uncanny. Scientists are _____ unsure why they engage in this _____. But they have figured out how _____ fireflies do it, if not why.

_____, the enzyme that is key to _____ firefly's light, has been manufactured through _____ engineering in labs. This synthetic enzyme _____ then be inserted into cells in _____ to observe cell processes like the _____ of tumors. The cells will express _____ under certain conditions and scientists can _____ in real-time

Keep going 

how cells change and .

These processes might also have applications the production of sustainable light sources. material could be engineered to contain bioluminescent bacteria.

glowing trees might replace streetlamps on streets!

Unfortunately, firefly populations seem to dwindling across the globe. Since they require dark, wet, and wooded areas to reproduce and eat, deforestation in many areas is leading to their decline.



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Archimedes

Archimedes was a Greek mathematician, inventor, astronomer, and philosopher.

He was born in the Greek city-state Syracuse over two thousand years ago.

Syracuse on the coast of Sicily, an in the Ionian Sea that is

part of Italy. Very little is about Archimedes' life. A biography that written

by a friend of his lost. We believe that his father an astronomer. He may

have spent time studying in Alexandria, in Egypt, important seat of

learning and scholarship the ancient world. He spent most his life in Syracuse,

but his spread all over the ancient world.

though Archimedes invented many machines, studied night-time
sky, and philosophized, mathematics was greatest love and the subject he

Keep going 

in his essays. He discovered formulas the surface area and volume of
sphere. He calculated the value of pi, number that describes the ratio of
circle's circumference to its diameter. He on the concept of infinity. He
a system for estimating the number grains of sand it would take
fill the universe.
His math was and precise, and meets modern-day standards
geometry and calculus. He also had great mechanical mind. His knowledge
of showed itself in his mathematical work, also in the machines he was
for during his lifetime. He explained levers work, designed pulley
systems, and the catapult.

Keep going 

For much of Archimedes' _____, Rome and Carthage were at war _____ each other, and fought for control _____ Sicily. Archimedes designed war machines to _____ Syracuse. He made catapults, and something _____ a claw, which may have been _____ kind of crane with a grappling _____ at the end that could attack _____ on the sea from inside the _____ walls. He may have invented giant _____ that could use the reflected rays _____ the sun to set ships on _____ . For two years, Rome had _____ Syracuse _____ siege. Syracuse held the Romans off, _____ the city fell in the end. _____ are several competing versions of exactly _____ Archimedes died.

According to a Roman _____ named Plutarch, Archimedes was studying a _____ diagram when the Roman troops marched _____ Syracuse. A soldier

Keep going 

commanded him to _____ with him to meet the General, _____ Archimedes refused

because he was absorbed _____ his diagram. The soldier drew his _____ and killed

Archimedes. In some accounts, Archimedes' _____ words to the Roman soldier who

him were, "Do not disturb my _____."

A circle and a sphere were _____ on Archimedes' tomb. Eventually, the location

of the tomb was forgotten, and archaeologists have yet to find it.



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The Day the Sky Turned Black

My parents told me in July that the solar eclipse that was going to happen in August was a very rare event. A solar eclipse is when the _____ appears to completely blot out the _____. For this eclipse, in some parts _____ the United States the sun would completely covered by the moon, although _____ would only be a partial eclipse we live. After my parents mentioned _____, it seemed like everyone was talking it and I wanted to know _____, so I did some reading.

I _____ that in ancient times people were _____ terrified of full solar eclipses. Since _____ did not understand what was happening _____ the sun, people in many cultures _____ elaborate myths and stories to explain _____. Usually in these myths and stories _____ animal, dragon or demon would try _____ eat the sun. People

Keep going 

would go _____ and bang on drums or ring _____ until the animal or the demon

swallowing the sun and let it _____. Then they could relax again until

next eclipse, when they would have _____ rescue the sun all over again.

_____ imagined that when night suddenly fell _____ the middle of the day, the

would drop and the stars would _____ out. Babies, and people who

hadn't _____ about the eclipse, would weep and _____ with fear. Birds would fly

into _____ trees, cats would go out hunting, _____ dogs would curl up in their

places. Even though people now are _____ sophisticated to believe that a monster

beast had eaten or stolen the _____, a terrible feeling of impending evil _____ be felt

on the streets. Maybe _____ sounds weird, but I was excited _____ experience this feeling,

Keep going 

especially since I _____ it wouldn't last long. I thought _____ once the sunlight started to come _____, there would be a feeling of _____ triumphing over evil.

On the morning _____ the day of the eclipse, my _____ and I made a viewer out of a cereal box. We cut off _____ top, glued a piece of white _____ to the bottom, covered half the _____ with a piece of aluminum foil, _____ poked a hole in the foil _____ a pin. Then we had to _____.

When the eclipse started, we took _____ viewer out to the balcony, and _____ with our backs to the sun. _____ adjusted the viewer until the sun _____ through the _____ pinhole and made a _____ on the white paper on the _____ of the box. It was _____ very _____, and looked like if you had _____ a cookie with a circular cutter, _____ used

Keep going 

the cutter to take a little chunk out of the side.

At the peak of the eclipse the sky turned a bit gray. Our cat noticed

notice whatsoever, and the construction work in the alley continued with their

undeterred, as though nothing was happening. I was fascinated. I can't wait

to see another eclipse!

