



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
8th Edition

Maze Benchmark EOY

Grade 8

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: _____

Space Shuttles

NASA's Space Shuttle program ran for over thirty years. The Space Shuttles could orbit the Earth with astronauts inside. Part of their mission was to study the effects of zero gravity on human beings, plants, and chemical reactions. The Shuttles also launched satellites and probes, as well as a giant space telescope for viewing distant stars and galaxies. Space Shuttle programs helped to build the International Space Station. Over time, the Space Shuttle program was an enormous success.

The Space Shuttles were designed to be partly reusable. They could return to Earth and land on a runway like airplanes. There were one hundred and thirty Space Shuttle missions.

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The idea of a kind of space plane was first proposed in the late 1950s. NASA wanted a spacecraft that could return to Earth and be fully reusable. After a lot of work, they finally compromised on a partly reusable shuttle design and started building the shuttles about one year before the Apollo Moon Landing.

The design of a space plane, expendable liquid oxygen tanks, and reusable rockets. It would be launched vertically like a normal rocket. The cockpit could carry five to seven astronauts.

Liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen were stored in the external tank to ignite the rockets. At about two minutes after launch, the rockets would release and the shuttle would parachute into the ocean to be picked up by NASA. With power from its main

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, the craft would keep rising until reached Earth orbiting height. Then the engines would be shut off and external fuel tank released to burn in the Earth's atmosphere.

When it time for the Shuttle to come , it would fire its thrusters and back into the lower atmosphere. It descend to Earth like a glider, dramatically by air pressure, finally landing a long runway out in the

Mostly, the Shuttle worked exactly as was designed to work. Yet there always a risk that such complicated systems will fail just because some thing goes wrong in a way nobody expects. The

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consequences of such small failure can be disastrous.

Altogether, were two such catastrophic accidents during Space Shuttle program's history. Both accidents later traced to small mechanical failures. 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded after launch, killing all seven astronauts. Especially tragic was the fact that Challenger mission was the first time teacher was part of the shuttle. Then, seventeen years later, the Space Shuttle Columbia over Texas during re-entry, killing another seven.

The Space Shuttle program was finally in 2011, right after Space Shuttle Atlantis's flight. But NASA has since built new vehicle to

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explore deep space. is called the Orion, and it been launched into space.

Even though Space Shuttle program is over, it a lasting impact
on space travel. International Space Station would have been

and much more difficult to construct keep supplied without the shuttle missions.

Space Shuttles that space travel could be more than anyone

believed before it began. Now we know better.

