



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills  
8<sup>th</sup> Edition

*Maze* Benchmark

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Backstrap Weaving

Backstrap weaving is an ancient way of making cloth that has been used for thousands of years all around the world. It requires a wooden loom that be made easily and cheaply. The loom can be rolled up and . Since this type of weaving has been done by village women, who often also responsible for making food raising children, it is important that loom be easy to set up and put aside when necessary.

The weaving technique is simple but it long practice. First, a warp must made by stretching yarn or thread two sticks. The distance between the determines the length of the finished . One of the sticks is tied something solid, perhaps to a tree. other is fastened to the

**Keep going** 

weaver a strap that goes around her . The strap can be made of

or it can be a leather .

The weaver is then able to the tension of the threads with movements of her body. She passes over and under the warp threads a tool called a shuttle. It a time-consuming process to weave fabrics this way, but the results are and beautiful.

The fabrics woven on looms are an important part of cultural heritage of the people who them. They are often full of motifs that refer to the myths religious beliefs of the distant past. Guatemala, for example, Mayan women often to weave when they are four five years old.

**Keep going** 

They use intricate \_\_\_\_\_ taught to them by other women \_\_\_\_\_ also invent their own designs. Once \_\_\_\_\_ have woven a blouse, the women \_\_\_\_\_ often wear it for many years. \_\_\_\_\_ blouse is unique, and it is \_\_\_\_\_ in the colors specific to a community. The specific colors and patterns \_\_\_\_\_, as well as the way the blouse is worn, tell others which area \_\_\_\_\_ woman comes from and whether she \_\_\_\_\_ married or single.

In Indonesia, backstrap \_\_\_\_\_ usually involves threads dyed two different \_\_\_\_\_ . One traditional dye is indigo, which \_\_\_\_\_ a range of blues, and the other is morinda, which produces shades from pink \_\_\_\_\_ purplish brown. These two dyes are \_\_\_\_\_ to threads before they are woven \_\_\_\_\_ create a fabric covered in \_\_\_\_\_

**Keep going** 

patterns            figures. Indonesian women who still practice            ancient technique

often work together in            groups called weaving collectives. This means

while working they can tell each            stories and sing songs. In each culture where

backstrap weaving is used, when women teach their daughters to weave, they are also

teaching their peoples' history and ideas.





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## The Circus

A circus is a traveling group of skilled performers comprised of jugglers, acrobats, tightrope walkers, equestrians, animal tamers, strongmen, clowns and others.

A circus typically moves around a \_\_\_\_\_ in any single country and sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ all

over the world. Circus performers \_\_\_\_\_ their acts in the middle of \_\_\_\_\_ big tent

called the Big Top. \_\_\_\_\_ middle part of the tent is \_\_\_\_\_ the ring. The Ringmaster is

the \_\_\_\_\_ in charge of all the acts \_\_\_\_\_ take place in the ring.

The \_\_\_\_\_ circus was invented by a man \_\_\_\_\_ Great Britain named Sergeant-

Major Philip Astley. \_\_\_\_\_ was a British military veteran and \_\_\_\_\_ skilled horse-trainer

who had performed equestrian \_\_\_\_\_ all over Europe. Finally, he settled \_\_\_\_\_ London,

where he opened his own \_\_\_\_\_ . Since the theater had a circular \_\_\_\_\_ for galloping

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horses, it became known as a “circus.” To bring in bigger crowds, Astley began to hire rope-walkers, jugglers, and acrobats. He also hired clowns to entertain people laugh between the acts. Soon he opened another circus in Paris. He discovered a sure-fire way of attracting and thrilling large audiences. Many other circuses sprang up all over Europe around the same time. Since most of the circuses did not rely on speech for dramatic effect, a circus could move from country to country, by passing the language barriers.

When the circus concept came to the United States early in the nineteenth century, it was done in a whole different way. Instead of a theater inside a building, the American circuses had a big tent. That was how the circuses were

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designed to travel wagon all around the country. Also, American imported elephants and lions from Africa used them to draw larger crowds. the end of the nineteenth century, traveled mostly by train and they by far the most popular form entertainment in America.

“Barnum and Bailey” the name of a famous circus began around that time, featuring large from India and Africa as well three rings instead of one. A of brothers started their own circus compete with Barnum and Bailey, calling the Ringling Brothers. Later these brothers out the Barnum and Bailey Circus. was a lot of work for because they had to run two . Finally, they made the two circuses one circus and called

**Keep going** 

it the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus.

The combined prospered for many years, but it ran into problems. A big fire the circus tent at one show the Ringling Brothers a huge lawsuit. tent was not safe because it not flame proof and the court the Ringling Brothers to be negligent. cost all the money they made the next ten years from their to pay the resulting fines. After the circus did well for many years, but it could not compete the new circuses and new attractions as Disney World. In the end, Ringling Brothers closed their famous circus. Nowadays, most people only know what a circus is like from reading books and watching old movies.





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## 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 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.

