3rd Grade Reading/Language Arts & Mathematics Assessment

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1,000 Series
Ink is Interesting

Did you ever wonder how we got ink? We first got ink from plants. Lots of plants have colored water in them. Have you ever had a grass stain? A grass stain is a type of ink. A fruit stain is a type of ink, too.

Ink was first used a long time ago. People used it to write letters. They dipped the sharp ends of bird feathers into ink. Then they wrote words on paper. Later, presses used ink to print words on paper.

Some things that have been used to make ink include nutshell. For example, walnut shells make brown ink. Ink also comes from squids that swim in the oceans. Squid ink is black, but the blackest ink is India ink, which is normally made from carbon. Artists still use it to make pen and ink drawings.

There are two main kinds of ink. One is water-based. Water-based ink has water in it. The other one is pigmented. (But it does not come from pigs!) Water-based and pigmented inks do not act the same. Water-based inks soak into paper. Pigmented inks stay on the surface.

A lot of people think we use most of the ink that is produced in pens, but more ink is actually used on presses. Think of all the newspapers in the world. Think how many magazines and books there are. Look at all the cans and bottles in a supermarket. The letters on all of them were printed in ink, too. All of these, plus lots of other things, are printed with ink.

Have you heard of silk-screen? It uses ink to put letters onto T-shirts. Think about the ink pens you write with in school. Plus, all of the magic markers you use have ink in them. All computer printers use ink, too. I'll bet you never knew how much ink you use until you read this!

1. What is the first paragraph about?
   A. the color green
   B. where ink came from first
   C. some kinds of plants
   D. none of the above
2. Which detail explains how people used to write?
   A. They put ink on presses.
   B. They dipped bird feathers into ink.
   C. They drew pictures with ink.
   D. none of the above

3. The passage describes the two main kinds of ink. Which kind does it tell about first?
   A. newspaper ink
   B. pigmented ink
   C. water-based ink
   D. none of the above

4. How are pigmented and water-based inks NOT alike?
   A. One is used on T-shirts; the other is not.
   B. One comes only in black; the other comes only in blue.
   C. One soaks into paper; one does not.
   D. none of the above

5. Why do presses use more ink than pens?
   A. because they are used to print so many different things
   B. because they waste ink
   C. because there are more presses than pens
   D. none of the above

6. What can you tell from the passage about grass, fruit, and walnuts?
   A. Their stains are hard to get out of clothes.
   B. Colored inks can be made from them.
   C. Black ink comes from them.
   D. none of the above

7. From this passage, you could conclude that:
   A. ink does not have much use to anyone
   B. ink is hard to wash off your hands
   C. ink costs a lot of money
   D. none of the above
8. The passage asks, "Have you ever had a grass stain?"
   What does the word stain mean?
   A. a mark
   B. a step
   C. a pen
   D. none of the above

9. The last paragraph was written to:
   A. describe pens and magic markers
   B. sell T-shirts
   C. tell about the importance of silk-screening
   D. none of the above

10. The best summary of this passage is:
    A. Most people do not use ink.
    B. Ink has a lot of uses.
    C. Ink comes in many colors.
    D. none of the above

11. What would be another good title for this passage?
    A. The Many Uses of Ink
    B. Ink Can Stain Your Clothes
    C. Artists Draw With Black Ink
    D. none of the above

12. How are squid ink and India ink different?
    A. One comes from squid; the other comes from walnuts.
    B. One is black, but the other is blacker.
    C. One is used in presses; the other is used in magic markers.
    D. none of the above
The Red Planet

When we look at Mars from Earth, it appears red to us. Because of this, Mars is often called the Red Planet. Mars was named after the Roman god of war. It is the fourth planet from the sun in our solar system.

Earth probes have sent home pictures of Mars. The Mars Express Orbiter took photos there in March 2004. In the photos, Mars looks like a reddish desert. It also looks like it has canals, but no one has seen any water there. As far as we know, no one lives on Mars.

Mars is not as big as Earth. In fact, it is only about one-fourth of Earth’s size, but Earth and Mars do have the same amount of dry land. That is because Mars has no oceans, and Earth has lots of them. Because Mars appears to have no water, it cannot have life as we have on Earth; however, Mars may have once had water. Many rocks on Mars have marks that look like they were made by water.

The air on Mars is very thin. If you jumped off the ground on Mars, you would go higher than you can on Earth. You could really dunk a basketball there! Humans can’t breathe the air on Mars. That is a problem we have to solve if we ever want to live there.

Earth has just one moon, but Mars is a planet with more than one moon. In fact, it has two small moons, and they are not round like Earth’s moon. The moons of Mars are named Phobos and Deimos.

Lots of books and articles have been written about Mars, and lots of movies and TV specials have been made about the Red Planet. In fact, more movies have been made about Mars than any other planet except Earth. In 2004, U.S. President George Bush stated that he wanted to send a space ship to Mars. Would you like to go?

13. This story is mostly:
   A. a description of Mars
   B. a travel guide to Mars
   C. an ad for Mars
   D. none of the above
14. Which detail explains why humans don’t go to Mars right now?
   A. We don’t like the color red.
   B. The air smells bad.
   C. We like having just one moon.
   D. none of the above

15. What would happen after you jumped off the ground on Mars?
   A. The space probe would pick you up.
   B. You would get two points for dunking a basketball.
   C. You would go higher than on Earth.
   D. none of the above

16. How does the size of Mars compare to Earth?
   A. It is four times larger than Earth.
   B. It is one-fourth Earth’s size.
   C. It is the size of our moon.
   D. none of the above

17. Why is Mars called the Red Planet?
   A. because early explorers called it that
   B. because it has red canals
   C. because it looks red from here
   D. none of the above

18. What can you tell about Mars from the first paragraph?
   A. Martians will attack Earth very soon.
   B. There are six planets between Mars and the sun.
   C. Martians have shot down Earth’s probes.
   D. none of the above
19. What conclusion can you draw from the fact that Mars has no water?
   A. It is probably a desert.
   B. There are lots of fish under the ground.
   C. No one there has a boat.
   D. none of the above

20. The author writes that “probes” have sent home pictures from Mars. What does probe mean in this passage?
   A. a Ford car
   B. a spacecraft
   C. a long stick
   D. none of the above

21. What is the purpose of the last sentence?
   A. to make the reader think about the future
   B. to be nosy
   C. to change the subject
   D. none of the above

22. Which is the best summary of this passage?
   A. Mars is very different from Earth.
   B. Mars looks red from Earth.
   C. Mars has no water.
   D. none of the above

23. What can you tell about Mars from the last paragraph?
   A. Most people would like to go to Mars.
   B. Most people make movies about Mars.
   C. Most people are interested in Mars.
   D. none of the above
24. Which detail belongs in a summary of this passage?
   A. Mars has three moons.
   B. Red snakes live on Mars.
   C. It is hot on Mars.
   D. none of the above

25. Why would humans die on Mars without a space suit?
   A. because we can't breathe the air there
   B. because it rains on Phobos
   C. because we would fall into a canal and drown
   D. none of the above

26. Explain why the author wrote, "As far as we know, no one lives on Mars."
   A. because we can't prove it for sure
   B. because the Martians are hiding from us
   C. because the Martians tore up the pictures the Orbiter took
   D. none of the above

27. The author wrote that Mars looks "...like it has canals."
    What is a canal?
    A. a TV station
    B. a highway
    C. a waterway
    D. none of the above

28. What can you conclude from the passage about travel to Mars from Earth?
   A. It will never happen.
   B. It will happen next month.
   C. Some people are talking about it.
   D. none of the above
A Bear Story

Dear Grandpa,

I know you used to sleep outside sometimes because you told me how you and your brothers did that. You said you sometimes slept in the woods. You told me about seeing a bear. That was scary!

We sleep in the woods some nights here at summer camp. We do not use tents, just our sleeping bags. Everyone tells stories about bears, but we have not seen one yet. Sometimes we hear noises in the woods, and some people say bears make the noises. I personally don’t know about that.

Last night, we camped out near the woods, but we were not actually in the woods. We made a campfire and cooked our supper. After we ate, we told ghost stories, and some were scary. Then we got into our sleeping bags and went to sleep.

This morning, I was awake before the sun came up. It was very quiet, and no one else was awake. Then I heard a noise. It sounded like something was walking through the woods. At first, I thought it was a person, but it sounded bigger. I just lay there very quiet. I was trying to decide what the noise was when one of my friends whispered, “Mary? Are you awake?”

I whispered back, “Yes, I am.”

She asked if I heard the noise, and I said I did. She asked what it was, and I said I didn’t know. Someone else woke up, and the sounds kept coming closer, so we all sat up. I asked if we should tell our counselors about the sounds.
"It's not growling like a bear," Mary said. Someone else screamed really loud! Then everyone started yelling, "BEAR!" We all jumped up and began running around like crazy. We were running in circles! The sun was coming up, and we could see something coming out of the woods, so we screamed louder!

Our poor counselors were trying to get us to hush, but we wouldn't stop yelling. Then one of the counselors shouted, "Stop, girls! It is NOT a bear! Look!" So we stopped and turned around to look. We saw the creature. Our mouths dropped open. We didn't make a sound, but the creature did.

It said, "Moooooo."

Boy, did we all feel dumb. Don't tell anyone about this, please, because my family will tease me forever if you do. Thanks.

Love,
Mary

29. What would be another good title for this letter?
   A. The Woods are Not Safe
   B. Cows Give Good Milk
   C. A Letter from Camp
   D. none of the above

30. Which explains what the campers did the night before?
   A. They went to sleep in the trees.
   B. They told funny stories and roasted marshmallows.
   C. They hiked into the woods.
   D. none of the above
31. What happened right after the girls got quiet?
   A. The sun came up.
   B. The counselors yelled at them.
   C. The cow mooed.
   D. none of the above

32. How are cows and bears alike?
   A. They are both animals.
   B. They both scare people.
   C. They both growl.
   D. none of the above

33. What caused the girls to be so afraid?
   A. They heard something in the woods.
   B. They heard sirens.
   C. They heard growling.
   D. none of the above

34. Why do you think the counselors told the girls to be quiet?
   A. The counselors wanted to tell them about breakfast.
   B. The counselors wanted them to see the bear.
   C. The counselors saw the cow.
   D. none of the above

35. From the letter, what conclusion can you draw about sleeping outside at camp?
   A. It rains a lot at camp.
   B. A herd of cows could run over you.
   C. It can be exciting.
   D. One should only camp during the summer.

36. The letter uses the word “counselor.”
   What does counselor mean in the letter?
   A. a leader
   B. a cowgirl
   C. a cook
   D. none of the above
37. The author wrote the second paragraph to:
   A. tell about sleeping bags
   B. tell about ghost stories
   C. tell how many bears live in the woods
   D. none of the above

38. A good summary of this letter is:
   A. Bears and cows are fun to play with.
   B. Sleeping bags will keep you safe from bears.
   C. Sleeping outside can be scary.
   D. all of the above

39. What happened right before the campers cooked their supper?
   A. They heard noises in the woods.
   B. They went for a long hike.
   C. They built a campfire.
   D. none of the above

40. The best summary of the last paragraph is:
   A. Mary tells her grandfather about the cow.
   B. Mary doesn’t want her family to know.
   C. Mary hopes her family will tease her.
   D. none of the above

41. Which book would help you to learn more about bears?
   A. the World Almanac
   B. the “B” encyclopedia
   C. an Atlas
   D. none of the above

42. Where in a book would you look for a chapter about camping?
   A. in the glossary
   B. in the index
   C. in the table of contents
   D. none of the above
43. Where might you find the definition of a cow?
   A. in the "C" encyclopedia
   B. in a calendar of events
   C. in a dictionary
   D. none of the above

44. Where would be the best place to look for a map of roads?
   A. a list of campgrounds
   B. a magazine about trees
   C. an Atlas
   D. none of the above

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