5 Connecticut Smarter Balanced (SBAC)

English Language Arts Grade 4

Practice Tests



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Small Steps, Big Gains!

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Reza Nazari

Grade 4 · Connecticut · Smarter Balanced

5 Connecticut Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for Smarter Balanced Preparation and Academic Confidence

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Grade 4 English

English Language

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Questions: Varies by section **Duration:** No time limit

Important Test Information

These practice items follow the style of fourth-grade English Language assessments. Formats can vary by section: you may see reading passages and graphics, different kinds of questions, or other tasks—follow the instructions on each page.

Test-Taking Tips:

- Read each question and every answer choice before you decide.
- Look back at the reading material or graphic when a question is based on them.
- Work carefully—there is no time limit on these practice tests, so use the time you need.

Remember: Take your time, stay calm, and do your best. You've prepared well for this practice—you've got this!

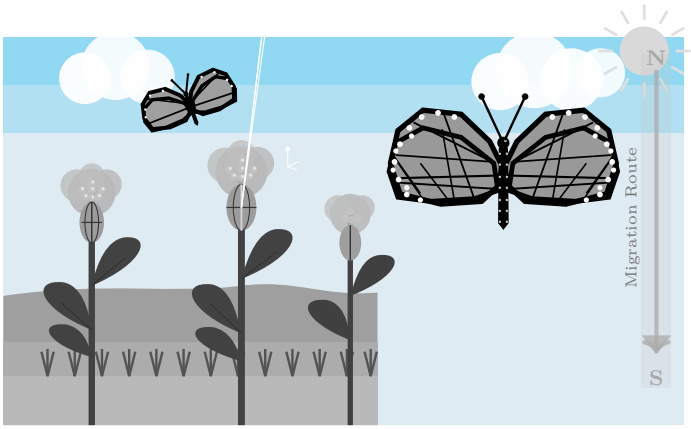


Firm cols? Scan to focus.

Scan Me

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–8.

The Monarch Butterfly: Earth's Greatest Traveler



1 Every autumn, something extraordinary unfolds across North America. Millions of monarch butterflies take flight in one of the largest mass migrations on Earth. A single butterfly, weighing less than a paperclip, will travel up to three thousand miles—from southern Canada all the way to a small cluster of mountain forests in central Mexico.

2 What makes this migration even more remarkable is that no individual butterfly has ever made the journey before. The butterflies that fly south in autumn are the great-great-grandchildren of those that flew north the previous spring. Yet they navigate to the exact same groves of *oyamel* fir trees where their ancestors rested—trees they have never seen.

3 Scientists believe monarchs navigate using an internal sun compass located in their antennae, which measures the position of the sun throughout the day. They also appear to detect Earth's magnetic field, giving them a second navigation system as a backup. Together, these tools allow them to travel with astonishing accuracy across an unfamiliar continent.

4 Before a monarch can migrate, it must complete a dramatic transformation called metamorphosis. The cycle begins when a female lays her eggs only on milkweed plants. Milkweed is the single food source the caterpillar can eat. When the egg hatches, the tiny caterpillar consumes milkweed leaves constantly, storing energy. After about two weeks, the caterpillar forms a jade-green chrysalis. Inside, an extraordinary reorganization occurs, and within ten to fourteen days, a fully formed butterfly emerges.

5 Monarchs that will migrate are born in late summer. Unlike their shorter-lived cousins of spring and early summer, these autumn monarchs enter a special state called *diapause*—a kind of pause in their development that prevents them from reproducing and allows them to live far longer. While an ordinary summer monarch lives only two to six weeks, a migrating monarch can live up to nine months.

6 The monarch's striking orange-and-black wings serve an important purpose beyond beauty. The bright coloring signals to predators that the butterfly is toxic. Monarchs absorb toxins from milkweed as caterpillars, and these chemicals remain in their bodies throughout their adult lives, making them unpleasant or dangerous to eat. Birds that try to eat a monarch once rarely try again.

7 In recent decades, monarch populations have declined sharply. Loss of milkweed due to herbicide use in farm fields has reduced the places where females can lay eggs. Logging in the Mexican wintering forests has shrunk the monarchs' resting grounds. Climate change has disrupted the timing of migration. Conservation efforts—including planting milkweed gardens, protecting Mexican forests, and reducing pesticide use—are helping to slow this decline.

8 The monarch butterfly is more than an insect. It is a living marvel of navigation, endurance, and transformation—a reminder that even the smallest creatures can accomplish journeys that astonish the greatest scientists on Earth.



Mega owls? Tame the tone.

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to light the dark for them.

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14) In the second stanza, what does the phrase *"holds them to their place"* most likely mean?

(A) The lighthouse light keeps the ships safely on their correct course.
(B) The lighthouse physically stops ships from leaving the harbor.
(C) The keeper knows exactly where every ship in the ocean is located.
(D) Ships must anchor near a lighthouse to stay safe during storms.

Use the poem "The Keeper's Promise" to answer this question.

15) In the third stanza, why does the speaker list natural dangers such as thunder, wind, and waves?

(A) To show that the lighthouse keeper is afraid of storms
(B) To explain how the lighthouse was originally built to survive bad weather
(C) To emphasize that the keeper's commitment to keeping the light burning does not waver no matter how severe the conditions are
(D) To compare the storms at sea with the keeper's own troubled thoughts

Use both "Storm Light" and "The Keeper's Promise" to answer this question.

16) What important idea is shared by both the story and the poem?

(A) Keeping the lighthouse light burning is a duty that must be passed from one generation to the next.
(B) Lighthouse keepers are almost always elderly men who live alone.
(C) Storms are so dangerous that no one should be at sea during them.
(D) Modern technology has made lighthouses unnecessary.



Adverb tables? Scan for waves.
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Use the story "Storm Light" to answer this question.

17) Which **TWO** details from the story best show that Nadia is brave and capable?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) She climbs the staircase alone and checks the light the way her grandfather taught her.
(B) She calms herself, uses the emergency lantern while she fixes the main light, and succeeds in repairing the timing belt in twelve minutes.
(C) Nadia hears the storm as a groan in the walls before it hits fully.
(D) Her grandfather has been the lighthouse keeper for forty-one years.
(E) The cargo ship anchors safely in the harbor by morning.

Use the story "Storm Light" to answer this question.

18) How does Nadia change from the beginning of the story to the end?

(A) She changes from being close to her grandfather to feeling distant from him after the storm.
(B) She changes from being unsure of herself to feeling a deep sense of purpose and understanding why her grandfather has devoted his life to the lighthouse.
(C) She changes from knowing nothing about the lighthouse to becoming an expert keeper who could replace her grandfather immediately.
(D) She changes from being afraid of storms to enjoying them.

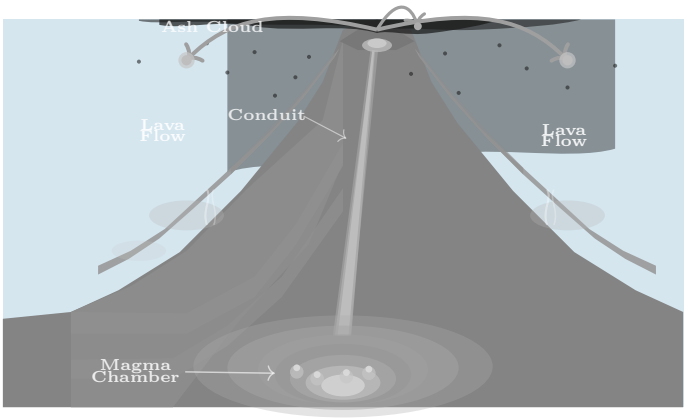
Use the story "Storm Light" to answer this question.

19) Which answer best explains how Nadia solves the problem in the story?

(A) Nadia replaces the lighthouse with a new electric system.
(B) Nadia waits for the storm to end and asks boats to help guide one another.
(C) Nadia climbs the tower to polish the lens until it shines again.
(D) Nadia keeps light showing with the emergency lantern and then remembers how to reset the slipped timing belt.

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 20–26.

Volcanoes: Earth's Fiery Builders



1 Deep beneath Earth's surface, rock is so hot that it becomes a thick, flowing liquid called magma. In some places, this magma collects in vast underground chambers, building pressure over thousands of years. When the pressure becomes too great, the magma finds a path to the surface—and a volcano is born.

2 A volcano is an opening in Earth's crust through which magma, gas, and ash can escape. Once magma reaches the surface, it is called *lava*. Lava can flow as a slow, thick river or explode violently into the sky at speeds of more than one hundred miles per hour. Scientists who study volcanoes are called *volcanologists*, and their work helps communities near active volcanoes stay safe.



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