5 Delaware Smarter Balanced English Language Arts Practice Tests

Grade 5



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Grade 5 · Delaware · Smarter Balanced

5 Delaware Grade 5
English Language Arts (ELA)
Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for Smarter Balanced Preparation and Academic Confidence

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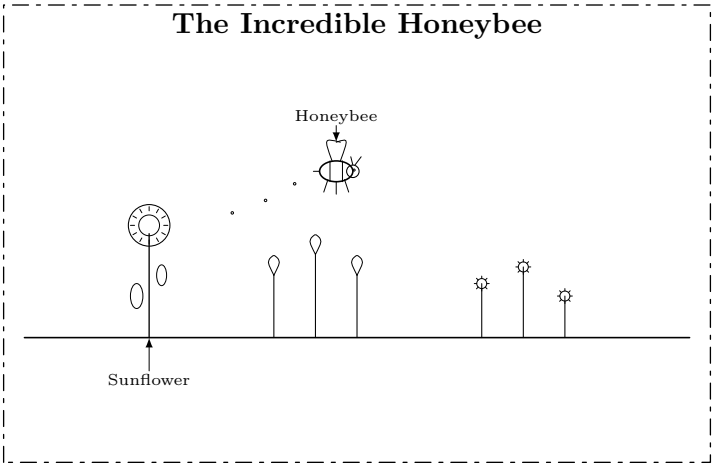
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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–9.

The Incredible Honeybee



A magnificent honeybee hovers among sunflowers, tulips, and daisies in a bright summer meadow, carrying golden pollen to share with the world.

1 Of all the creatures buzzing through a garden, few are as important as the honeybee. Honeybees are small insects with golden-and-black striped bodies, four see-through wings, and six legs. They are found on every continent except Antarctica, where they live and work together in large groups called *colonies*.

2 A single colony can hold up to 60,000 bees inside one hive! Inside the hive, thousands of six-sided wax cells form a structure called a honeycomb. Each cell has a purpose—storing honey, holding eggs, or raising young bees. The queen bee is the only bee that lays eggs. Worker bees do everything else: they clean, guard, feed young bees, and gather food every single day.

3 Worker bees visit flowers to collect a sweet liquid called nectar. They carry the nectar back to the hive in a special honey stomach. Inside the hive, bees pass the nectar from bee to bee, adding helpful chemicals. The nectar slowly thickens and dries, turning into golden honey that can stay fresh for months—or even years.

Hot hook? Win the read.
Scan Me

4 While gathering nectar, bees also pick up tiny grains of powder called pollen on their fuzzy bodies. When a bee visits another flower, some of that pollen rubs off. This process is called *pollination*, and it is what helps flowers, fruits, and vegetables grow. Scientists believe that about one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of bee pollination.

5 Today, honeybees face serious threats. Some farm chemicals can harm bees, and a tiny pest called the varroa mite can weaken entire colonies. But people everywhere are taking action. Farmers are planting bee-friendly flowers, and beekeepers are carefully protecting their hives. When we help honeybees thrive, we help the entire planet.

Read this dictionary entry.

colony *noun*

1. a large group of animals or insects that live and work together
2. a soft, spongy material found on tree bark
3. a type of brightly colored flower
4. a deep tunnel carved underground

1) Which meaning of the word *colony* is used in paragraph 1?

(A) Definition 1
(B) Definition 2
(C) Definition 4
(D) Definition 3

Use the passage "The Incredible Honeybee" to answer this question.

2) Which sentence is an **opinion**?

(A) A colony can hold up to 60,000 bees inside one hive.
(B) The queen bee is the only bee that lays eggs.
(C) Bees pick up pollen on their fuzzy bodies while gathering nectar.
(D) Honeybees are the most important insects in the entire world.

Use the passage "The Incredible Honeybee" to answer this question.

3) Why does the author place paragraph 4 right after paragraph 3?

(A) To explain why bees sting animals that come near their flowers
(B) To compare honeybees with butterflies and hummingbirds
(C) To list the steps beekeepers use to set up a new hive
(D) To show that the process of gathering nectar also leads to the important result of pollination

Use the passage "The Incredible Honeybee" to answer this question.

4) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) All insects live underground in tunnels that look like hives.
(B) Honey is the only food that bees produce for humans to use.
(C) Honeybees are remarkable insects that make honey, support plant growth, and face dangers that people are working to solve.
(D) The queen bee does all the work inside a busy colony.

Swift wizards? Scan for words. Scan Me

Use the poem "Stargazer" to answer this question.

18) Which sentence best describes how the speaker **feels** about the night sky?

(A) The speaker is angry that the Milky Way blocks the moon every night
(B) The speaker feels wonder and connection, as if thousands of stars were set out "just for me," and proudly calls himself or herself a "stargazer" in the night
(C) The speaker believes the sky is empty and refuses to look up at stars
(D) The speaker thinks only one star exists and all other lights are airplanes

Use both "The Night the Stars Spoke" and "Stargazer" to answer this question.

19) What do the story and the poem have in common?

(A) Both show a person finding wonder, courage, and a sense of belonging by looking up at the night sky.
(B) Both describe characters who are frightened of the dark and never overcome that fear.
(C) Both are mainly about learning the names of every star in the universe.
(D) Both take place during a rainstorm inside a crowded school gymnasium.

Use both "The Night the Stars Spoke" and "Stargazer" to answer this question.

20) How are the endings of the story and the poem **most alike**?

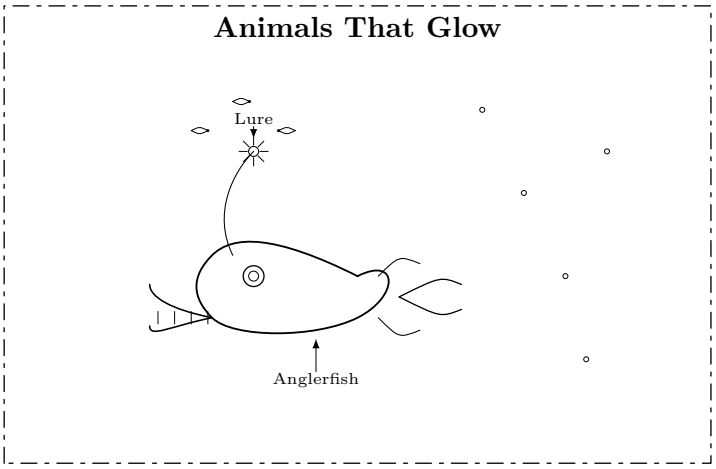
(A) Both endings show the character or speaker feeling a strong personal connection to the beauty of the natural world.
(B) Both endings take place indoors during a very cold winter evening.
(C) Both endings describe a powerful storm arriving at the end of the night.
(D) Both endings reveal that a character has decided to become an astronaut.



Slow answers? Scan for hats.
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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 21–29.

Animals That Glow



Deep in the dark ocean, an anglerfish dangles its glowing lure, while jellyfish pulse with soft blue and purple light and trails of glowing plankton sweep through the water like rivers of stars.

1 Deep in the ocean, far from any sunlight, the darkness is almost total. Yet some creatures have found a remarkable solution: they make their own light! This ability is called *bioluminescence*, which means the power of a living thing to produce and give off light. Hundreds of ocean animals glow, and scientists discover more every year.

2 The anglerfish is one of the most famous glowing animals. This deep-sea fish has a long spine on its head with a glowing lure at the tip, like a tiny lantern in the dark. Smaller fish swim toward the light, thinking it might be food—and then the anglerfish snaps them up with its enormous jaws. The light is produced by millions of tiny glowing bacteria that live inside the lure.

3 Jellyfish are another group of bioluminescent animals. Many jellyfish pulse with soft blue, green, or purple light as they drift through the water. Unlike the anglerfish, jellyfish may use their glow to confuse or startle predators that try to eat them. A sudden flash of light can surprise a hunter just long enough for the jellyfish to drift safely away.

4 Even the tiniest ocean creatures can glow. Plankton are *microscopic* living things that float near the ocean's surface. When waves disturb the water at night, millions of plankton glow blue, making the ocean shimmer as if it were filled with stars. People who live near the coast sometimes see this display and call it the "sea of stars."

5 Scientists are learning important lessons from glowing animals. Chemicals found in glowing jellyfish are now used in medical research to help doctors see what is happening inside living cells. The more people study these amazing light-making creatures, the more ideas they discover that could one day help people all around the world.

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21) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Plankton is the only living thing capable of producing light in the ocean.
(B) All deep-ocean animals use bioluminescence to hunt, and none use it to escape predators.
(C) Many ocean animals produce their own light, which they use for survival, and scientists are learning from them.
(D) The ocean is completely dark and no living creatures are able to survive in it.

Zany tips? Scan for ones. Scan Me