



Name: _____ Class: _____

ReadTheory Free Practice State Test

Grades 3–5

Passage 1: The Busy Ant

Grade Level: 3, Lexile Level: 520L

Ants are hard workers. They carry food and build homes. Each ant has a job to do. Some ants guard the home, while others find food. Working together helps the colony survive. These tiny insects work together in tunnels underground, always busy and never alone.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Ants are lazy.
 - B. Ants work together to survive.
 - C. Ants eat a lot.
 - D. Ants live alone.

2. What is one job an ant might do?
 - A. Cook meals
 - B. Guard the home
 - C. Drive cars
 - D. Paint walls

3. What does the word 'colony' mean in the passage?
 - A. A single ant
 - B. A type of food
 - C. A group of ants living together
 - D. A type of guard

4. Why do ants work together?

- A. To make friends
- B. To survive
- C. To play games
- D. To explore

5. Which detail supports the main idea?

- A. Ants have tiny legs.
- B. Ants sleep during the day.
- C. Some ants guard the home.
- D. Ants do not like water.

Open-Ended Question

Why is teamwork important in an ant colony?

Passage 2: The Moon's Surface

Grade Level: 3, Lexile Level: 580L

The Moon looks smooth from Earth, but it has mountains and craters. Craters are holes made by rocks from space. Astronauts have walked on the Moon and collected rocks to study. The Moon has no air or water, and temperatures can change quickly. Scientists continue to study its surface using special tools and spacecraft.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What are craters?

- A. Mountains
- B. Stars
- C. Lakes
- D. Holes made by space rocks

2. What have astronauts done on the Moon?

- A. Built homes
- B. Collected rocks
- C. Planted trees
- D. Flown kites

3. How does the Moon look from Earth?

- A. Smooth
- B. Rough
- C. Colorful
- D. Bright red

4. Why is the Moon full of craters?

- A. It rains a lot
- B. Winds shape the land
- C. Space rocks hit it
- D. Animals dig holes

5. Which detail supports the main idea?

- A. The Moon has mountains and craters.
- B. Astronauts eat space food.
- C. Stars are in the sky.
- D. The Moon is cheese.

Open-Ended Question

Describe how the Moon's surface is different from how it looks from Earth.

Passage 3: Plant Life Cycle

Grade Level: 4, Lexile Level: 645L

Plants start from seeds. The seed grows roots, then a stem, and then leaves. These parts help the plant get water, sunlight, and nutrients from the soil. When the plant is fully grown, it may make buds that turn into flowers. Flowers can attract bees and other insects. These insects help the plant make seeds. The seeds may fall to the ground or be carried away by wind or animals. When the seeds land in soil, they can grow into new plants. This cycle repeats again and again.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the first step in a plant's life cycle?

- A. It grows flowers
- B. It produces seeds
- C. It starts as a seed
- D. It loses leaves

2. What grows after the roots?

- A. Flowers
- B. Leaves
- C. Fruits
- D. Stem

3. What happens when a plant is fully grown?

- A. It disappears
- B. It dies
- C. It may produce buds
- D. It flies away

4. What does 'cycle' mean in the passage?

- A. A one-time event
- B. A pattern that repeats
- C. A seed
- D. A flower

5. What helps a plant get water, sunlight, and nutrients from the soil?

- A. Roots, stem, and leaves
- B. Seeds and flowers
- C. Bees and insects
- D. Buds and wind

Open-Ended Question

Explain how a plant changes from a seed to a full-grown plant.

Passage 4: A Rainy Adventure

Grade Level: 4, Lexile Level: 670L

Jenna didn't expect rain on her hike, but she kept going. She used her raincoat and stayed on the path. She saw frogs hopping and streams flowing. The rain made the forest come alive. The leaves were shiny and wet, and the trees seemed greener than before. Birds chirped from the branches, and small animals scurried across the trail. Even though she was damp, Jenna smiled. She felt calm and happy as she listened to the soft sound of rain falling on the trees.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the setting of the story?

- A. A desert
- B. A beach
- C. A school
- D. A forest during rain

2. What did Jenna do when it rained?

- A. Went home
- B. Used her raincoat and kept hiking
- C. Got lost
- D. Took a nap

3. What did she see during her hike?

- A. Frogs and streams
- B. Cars and buses
- C. Dogs and cats
- D. Snow and ice

4. What does the rain do in the story?

- A. Makes the hike boring
- B. Ruins the day
- C. Stops the hike
- D. Makes the forest come alive

5. Which word best describes Jenna?

- A. Lazy
- B. Sleepy
- C. Adventurous
- D. Mean

Open-Ended Question

How did Jenna make the best of her rainy adventure?

Passage 5: Inventing the Lightbulb

Grade Level: 5, Lexile Level: 770L

Thomas Edison is often known for inventing the lightbulb. He didn't invent it alone, but he improved it so it could last longer. His work helped bring light to homes across the world. Edison experimented with many materials before finding the right one that would allow the lightbulb to glow for a long time without burning out. His invention led to more changes in homes and cities, as electric lights began to replace gas lamps.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who is mentioned in the passage?

- A. Thomas Edison
- B. Albert Einstein
- C. Marie Curie
- D. Isaac Newton

2. What did Edison improve?

- A. The telephone
- B. The airplane
- C. The lightbulb
- D. The radio

3. Why is the lightbulb important?

- A. It can cook food
- B. It helps plants grow
- C. It cools houses
- D. It brings light to homes

4. What does the passage suggest about inventions?

- A. They happen overnight
- B. They always fail
- C. They need teamwork and improvement
- D. They don't help people

5. What happened after Edison's improvement?

- A. People stopped using candles
- B. Lightbulbs became useful in homes
- C. Factories closed
- D. People used oil lamps more

Open-Ended Question

Why was improving the lightbulb such an important invention?

Teacher Directions: ReadTheory Practice State Test

This ReadTheory-aligned practice test simulates the structure of a state ELA assessment. It includes five reading passages, each with multiple-choice questions and one open-ended writing prompt. This resource can be used for formal assessment, targeted practice, or progress monitoring.

You may print and distribute the test for in-class use or assign it as independent practice.

How to Use the Test

- Administer the test over multiple days or as a full-length assessment.
- Students should complete the passages and questions independently.
- No assistance should be given with content or answer selection.

Scoring Instructions

Each of the 5 passages includes:

- 5 multiple-choice questions (1 point each)
- 1 open-ended writing question (4 points)

Scoring Breakdown

- Multiple Choice: 5 questions × 5 passages = 25 points
- Writing: 1 prompt × 5 passages = 20 points
- **Total Possible Score: 45 points**

Final Raw Score

- Raw Score = Total Multiple Choice Correct (out of 25) + Total Writing Score (out of 20)
- Example: 20 MC + 19 Writing = 39/45

Open-Ended Writing Rubric (1–4 Scale Per Passage)

Score and Description:

4 – Fully addresses the prompt with clear organization and strong evidence from the text

3 – Addresses the prompt adequately with some relevant support

2 – Partial or unclear response; limited or loosely connected evidence

1 – Incomplete, off-topic, or unsupported response

Converting Raw Score to Final Grade (Scaled 1–4)

Once you have the total score out of 45, convert it to a final scaled score:

4 – Exceeds Expectations: 90–100% (41–45)

3 – Meets Expectations: 75–89% (34–40)

2 – Approaching Expectations: 60–74% (27–33)

1 – Below Expectations: Below 60% (0–26)

To calculate percentage: Divide the raw score by 45, then multiply by 100.

Example: Raw Score = 39

$(39 \div 45) \times 100 = 86.7\% \rightarrow \text{Final Grade} = 3$

For best results, consider reviewing the open-ended responses with students to reinforce strengths and address areas for growth. Happy reading!

ReadTheory Practice State Test Answer Key (Grades 3–5)

Passage 1 – Multiple Choice:

1. B. Ants work together to survive.
2. B. Guard the home
3. C. A group of ants living together
4. B. To survive
5. C. Some ants guard the home.

Passage 1 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: Teamwork is important in an ant colony because each ant has a special job, like guarding the home or finding food. When they all do their jobs together, they help the whole colony survive. The ants work underground and never work alone, which shows how important teamwork is.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes multiple accurate details from the passage
- Demonstrates clear organization and logical reasoning

Score 3 – Competent: Ants use teamwork to live. They work together to get food and protect their home. That's why teamwork is important.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes at least one relevant detail from the text
- May have minor lapses in clarity or development

Score 2 – Developing: Teamwork helps ants. They all work.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Lacks specific detail or development
- Limited connection to the passage

Score 1 – Minimal: Ants are small. They live in dirt.

- Off-topic or very limited response
- No clear connection to the prompt or text
- May show misunderstanding or confusion

Passage 2 – Multiple Choice:

1. D. Holes made by space rocks
2. B. Collected rocks
3. A. Smooth
4. C. Space rocks hit it
5. A. The Moon has mountains and craters.

Passage 2 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: The Moon looks smooth from Earth, but its surface has mountains and craters. Craters are holes made by space rocks. The surface is rough and full of bumps, even though it looks flat and smooth from far away.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Uses multiple accurate details from the passage
- Explains the difference clearly and with supporting details

Score 3 – Competent: The Moon looks smooth from Earth, but it has craters. It's not as smooth as it seems.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes at least one specific example from the text
- May lack detail or depth in explanation

Score 2 – Developing: The Moon has holes. It looks different.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Limited or vague connection to the text
- Minimal explanation provided

Score 1 – Minimal: The Moon is in the sky. It is bright.

- Off-topic or unrelated response
- No text-based support or explanation
- Shows misunderstanding of the question

Passage 3 – Multiple Choice:

1. C. It starts as a seed
2. D. Stem
3. C. It may produce flowers and seeds
4. B. A pattern that repeats
5. A. Roots, stem, and leaves

Passage 3 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: A plant starts as a seed. It grows roots, then a stem and leaves. When it is fully grown, it may grow flowers and seeds to start the cycle again. This process helps keep new plants growing.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Accurately describes the full life cycle using details from the text
- Clearly organized and uses appropriate sequence language

Score 3 – Competent: The seed grows roots and then it gets leaves. Later it makes flowers and seeds.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes basic stages of growth from the passage
- May skip some details or be less clearly explained

Score 2 – Developing: Plants grow from seeds. They get big and make flowers.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Lacks detail and clear sequencing
- Limited reference to the passage

Score 1 – Minimal: Plants are green. They are outside.

- Off-topic or irrelevant to the question
- No connection to the life cycle or text content
- Lacks any accurate text-based information

Passage 4 – Multiple Choice:

1. D. A forest during rain
2. B. Used her raincoat and kept hiking
3. A. Frogs and streams
4. D. Makes the forest come alive
5. C. Adventurous

Passage 4 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: Jenna made the best of her rainy adventure by using her raincoat, staying on the path, and observing the nature around her. She saw frogs hopping and streams flowing. Even though it was raining, she enjoyed the forest and didn't give up.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes multiple accurate and specific details from the passage
- Shows understanding of character actions and response to setting

Score 3 – Competent: Jenna kept hiking in the rain and saw frogs and streams. She had fun even though it was raining.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Provides at least one specific detail
- May lack full development or depth

Score 2 – Developing: She walked in the rain and saw things.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Vague details with limited connection to the passage
- Brief and lacks explanation

Score 1 – Minimal: It rained. Jenna was outside.

- Off-topic or overly general response
- No clear reference to how Jenna handled the adventure
- Lacks supporting details or understanding of the passage

Passage 5 – Multiple Choice:

1. A. Thomas Edison
2. C. The lightbulb
3. D. It brings light to homes
4. C. They need teamwork and improvement
5. B. Lightbulbs became useful in homes

Passage 5 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: Improving the lightbulb was important because it made it last longer. Edison's work helped bring light into homes and made electric lights more common. His invention replaced gas lamps and helped cities become brighter and safer.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes specific and relevant text evidence
- Shows understanding of the impact and importance of the invention

Score 3 – Competent: It was important because it helped people have light in their homes. It worked better than candles or gas lights.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Contains at least one detail from the passage
- May lack depth or additional reasoning

Score 2 – Developing: He made a better lightbulb so it worked more.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Limited information or vague explanation
- May show some understanding, but lacks clarity

Score 1 – Minimal: Thomas Edison made stuff.

- Off-topic or very general
- No reference to the importance or context of the invention
- Shows confusion or misunderstanding of the passage