Kids Learn!

Getting Ready for

8th Grade

Assessments

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Pretest

Directions: Read the passage, and then follow the directions for problems 1–4.

> The conductor stands on a platform. All the musicians have their eyes on the conductor. Then, at the first movement of the baton, the orchestra begins to play. During the concert, there are intervals of loud and soft sounds. The pace may change from fast to slow. Different instruments may be highlighted. Performing a symphony is a complex task. The conductor must know every part of the musical arrangement and be able to cue each player. Each musician must not only be skilled at reading music and playing an instrument but also be able to follow and respond to the conductor's precise gestures.

1a. Think about the different kinds of writing and their purposes. Then, choose the type of writing and purpose of this paragraph.

(A) narrative, to entertain readers   (C) persuasive, to convince readers

(B) expository, to entertain readers   (D) expository, to inform readers

1b. Using evidence from the text, support your answer above.

_____

_____

2. Which of these sentences describes the main ideas of the paragraph? Mark all that apply.

(A) Performing a symphony is a complex task.

(B) During the concert, there are intervals of loud and soft sounds.

(C) The conductor must know every part of the musical arrangement and be able to cue each player.

(D) Musicians are talented.

3. The first word in each pair below is used in the story. In some of the pairs, the second word is a synonym of the first. Mark the choice(s) in which the second word is *not* a synonym of the first.

(A) pace, tempo   (C) gesture, close

(B) precise, exact   (D) baton, stick

Pretest (cont.)

4. Give two details from the text that support the conclusion below.

> Being a conductor is hard work.

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Read the poem, and then answer the question below.

What if I weren't plain old me
And I could be what I want to be
Living wherever I want and then
Doing whatever I please, and when?

I could be a shining knight
On a royal steed of white.
In dazzling garments I'd be dressed
A golden shield upon my chest.
A legend I could surely be
Plus rich and famous, naturally.

Or,
A navy sailor I could be
The captain, with authority!
My uniform decked out in gold
With medals shining bright and bold.
A hero I could surely be
Plus brave and strong, obviously.

Or,
I could be a handsome king
A crown of pearls and diamond ring
A purple robe and staff of gold
A royal sight to behold.
Stately I could surely be
Plus fair and expert, certainly.

However,

If I had to choose for real
The one that has the most appeal
Has to be just plain old me
The somebody I'm meant to be.

What does the word *steed* mean, as used in the poem?

- (A) a small ship
- (B) a horse
- (C) a throne
- (D) hero

Pretest (cont.)

6. What would be a good title for this poem? Why?

_____

_____

_____

7. Read the excerpt and complete the task below.

Excerpt from a Letter from Ben Franklin to his Daughter, January 26, 1784

For my part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen to represent our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead tree near the river where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk. Then, when that hard-working bird has taken a fish and is bringing it to his nest to support his family, the bald eagle steals it from him….

In truth, the turkey is a much more respectable bird and a true native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey is unique to ours…. It is a bird of courage that would not hesitate to attack a British soldier who should come into his farmyard with a red coat on.

Ben Franklin would have preferred that the turkey had been chosen as America's symbol rather than the bald eagle. Read the two sets of words below. Circle one word in each column that Ben Franklin thought best describes each bird.

Bald Eagle	Turkey
comical	serious
dishonest	unique
sad	happy
harmful	safe

Name: _____   Date: _____

Pretest *(cont.)*

8. At the time this was written, the United States was a newly formed country that had just won its independence from the British. While talking about birds, Ben Franklin reveals how he feels about the British. Which statement best describes Ben Franklin's views?

    A Like eagles, British soldiers are not respectable.

    B British soldiers have no business being on American soil.

    C Birds should be used to attack British soldiers.

    D British soldiers use eagles as their mascot.

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9. What does the word *ours* refer to in the sentence?

> Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey is unique to ours.

    A all countries

    B the eagles

   **C** the turkey

    D the United States

---

10. The passage from Ben Franklin to his daughter contains both facts and opinions. Mark all the statements below that are opinions.

    A For my part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen to represent our country.

    B You may have seen him perched on some dead tree near the river where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk.

    C Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey is unique to ours….

    D In truth, the turkey is a much more respectable bird and a true native of America.

Name: _____   Date: _____

Pretest *(cont.)*

Directions: Solve each problem.

11. The figure below is drawn to scale.

3 ft.

3 ft.

n

6 ft.

3 ft.

6 ft.
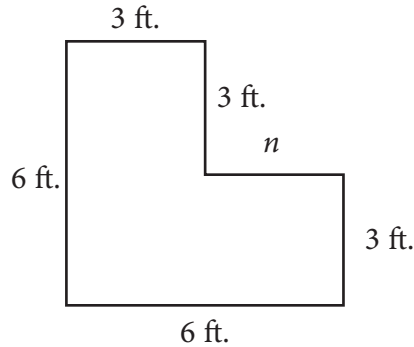
11a.   What is the length of side *n*? _____

11b.   What is the area of the figure in square feet? _____

---

12. Solve each absolute value problem.

12a. $4 + | -8 | =$ _____

12b. $103 - | 62 | =$ _____

12c. $| -8 | + | -52 | =$ _____

---

13. A box is shaped like a rectangular prism. Find the surface area of the box.

6 in.   4 in.

4 in.

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Go On   **7**
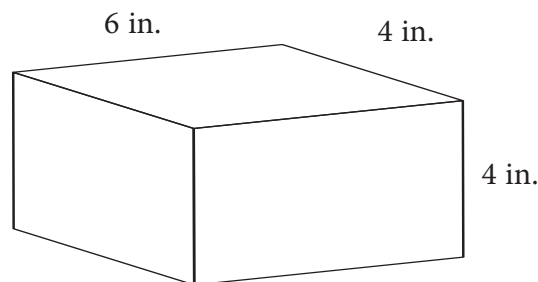
14. Roanne has a coupon for 30% off any purchase at The Best Store, with a maximum discount of $50. What is the highest purchase price that will receive the full 30% discount? Write an inequality and graph the solution on the number line.

---

15. Annika went to a bead fair. She spent $4 on the entry fee, and then bought some beads. Each bead at the fair was priced at $0.75. Annika spent $16 altogether. How many beads did she buy?

   Ⓐ   13   Ⓒ   15

   Ⓑ   14   Ⓓ   16

---

16. A set contains the numbers 0, 4, 5, 9, and 12. A number is selected randomly from the set, and then a second number is selected randomly from the four remaining numbers. What is the probability that each of the given events will occur? Write a number in each box to complete the fraction that represents the probability of each event.

16a. Probability that the sum is greater than 13: $\dfrac{\Box}{\Box}$

16b. Probability that the product is zero: $\dfrac{\Box}{\Box}$

---

17. Alex's recipe calls for $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of chocolate chips for every 2 cups of flour. If he increases the amount of flour to 3 cups, how many cups of chocolate chips will he need?

Pretest (cont.)

18. Ronan does not want to pay more than $25.00 for a new sweater. Select all of the following descriptions for prices of sweaters Ronan would buy.

A 35% off a $35 sweater plus $4 shipping

B 20% off a $30 sweater

C 30% off a $30 sweater plus $6 shipping

D A $20 sweater with $5 shipping

E 10% off a $20 sweater plus $6 shipping

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19. This spinner has 12 equal-sized sections labeled 0, 1, 2, or 3. The arrow on the spinner is spun. Write all possible outcomes for each probability category.
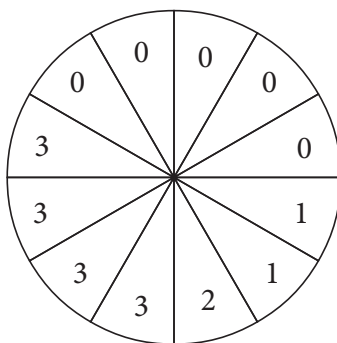
Probability Greater than $\frac{1}{3}$	Probability Equal to $\frac{1}{3}$	Probability Less than $\frac{1}{3}$

---

20. Heidi mixes 40 gallons of punch for the school dance by mixing 12 gallons of concentrate with 28 gallons of water. Which part of every gallon is from concentrate? The model represents 1 gallon of mixed punch. Color the bars to represent how much of each gallon is from concentrate.

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Stop **9**

Name: _____ Date: _____
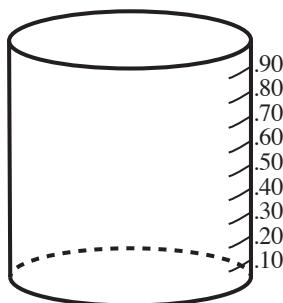
Posttest

Directions: Read the passage, and then follow the directions for problems 1–4.

Do you like chocolate? It is a rare person who doesn't. Most people think that chocolate is one of the best tastes there is. However, for centuries, chocolate was anything but sweet. The first proven use of chocolate was by the Maya about 2,000 years ago. These native people of Mexico would grind up cacao seeds and then mix them with water, chile peppers, and other ingredients. The result was a drink that was foamy and spicy–and quite bitter. It wasn't until the 1600s that the Spanish discovered this uniquely Mexican product. It would be another 100 years or so before Europeans developed a taste for chocolate, and then only because something was added that the Maya did not have–sugar. So the next time you enjoy a delicious chocolate treat, think about its sweet history, and perhaps thank the Maya.

1a. Think about the different kinds of writing and their purposes. Then, choose the type and purpose of this paragraph.

   (A)   narrative, to entertain readers   (C)   persuasive, to convince readers

   (B)   expository, to entertain readers   (D)   expository, to inform readers

1b. Using evidence from the text, support your answer above.

   _____

   _____

2. Which of these sentences describes the main ideas of the paragraph? Mark all that apply.

   (A)   Sugar makes chocolate taste good.   (C)   Chocolate was discovered by
                                                           the Maya but made tasty by the
   (B)   Chocolate has changed over time.   Europeans.

                                                    (D)   Everyone likes chocolate.

Posttest (cont.)

3. The first word in each pair below is used in the story. In three of the pairs, the second word is a synonym of the first. Mark the choice in which the second word is not a synonym of the first.

    (A)   bitter, tart   (C)   native, original

    (B)   uniquely, exclusively   (D)   delicious, sweet

---

4. Give two details from the text that support the conclusion below.

> The first chocolate drinks were foamy and spicy—and quite bitter.

_____

_____

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5. Read the poem, and then answer the question below.

> I fancy myself a poet.
> Allow me to spin a tale
> Of a journey across the globe,
> And how I did set sail.
>
> I thought that I'd be captain
> And just my dog my crew.
> The two of us were going
> On a local sloop called *Sue*.
>
> Our push-off was successful.
> We'd sailed away at last.
> The land was way behind us,
> When suddenly I gasped!
>
> Everywhere around us
> Nothing could be seen,
> Except for endless water—
> Not a stick of green.
>
> As fast as I could manage
> I turned the sloop around.
> Sailing seemed to sound like fun
> Until there was no ground!
>
> So now I am a poet.
> And if again I try
> To see the world around me,
> I am going to fly!

What does the word *sloop* mean as used in the poem?

    (A)   to steer   (C)   a boat

    (B)   a sail   (D)   water

Posttest (cont.)

6. What would be a good title for this poem? Why?

_____

_____

_____

My name is Natalie. I have a problem with something that most people do not even think about. My problem is with the message some fairy tales send to little kids. Rather than being "beloved classics" that are widely read to preschoolers, I think that stories such as "The Three Pigs" and "Little Red Riding Hood" should be banned. You should think so, too. Why? Consider these points. First, both stories portray wolves as evil. The wolf in "The Three Pigs" comes by and blows the roof off their houses in an effort to get to the pigs, supposedly to eat them up. Like any animal, the wolf is looking for food. Pigs are food for wolves. In fact, pigs are food for many people! So why is the wolf in the story portrayed as big, bad, and scary? As if that weren't enough to teach prejudice against wolves, in "Little Red Riding Hood," another big, bad wolf is in the woods. Where else should wolves be? It is the little girl who shouldn't be there alone with a basket of goodies. To make matters worse, in both stories, the wolves are killed! Is this the kind of message we want little kids to get—that prejudice and killing are not only all right but actually celebrated? There are many wonderful stories to read to little kids that do not condone bias and violence. You should read those to children and pass on the ones that give the wrong message.

7. How did Natalie use comparison to support her proposition?

_____

_____

_____

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8. Which statement best describes Natalie's views?

(A) Wolves are kind and gentle animals.

(B) Wolves should eat more pigs.

(C) Some classic fairy tales should not be read to children.

(D) Don't let your children wander in the forest on their own.

Posttest (cont.)

9. What does the word *their* refer to in the sentence below?

> The wolf in "The Three Pigs" comes by and blows the roof off their houses in an effort to get to the pigs, supposedly to eat them up

(A) the wolf   (C) the pigs

(B) the houses   (D) the story

_____

_____

10. The passage contains both facts and opinions. Mark all the statements below that are opinions.

(A) Rather than being "beloved classics" that are widely read to preschoolers, I think that stories such as "The Three Pigs" and "Little Red Riding Hood" should be banned.

(B) There are many stories to read to little kids that do not condone bias and violence.

(C) It is the little girl who shouldn't be in the woods alone with a basket of goodies.

(D) Pigs are food for wolves.

Name: _____   Date: _____

Posttest (cont.)

Directions: Solve each problem.

11. The figure below is drawn to scale.

10 in.

3 in.   3 in.

2 in. n

2 in.   2 in.

2 in.   2 in.

2 in.   2 in.   2 in.
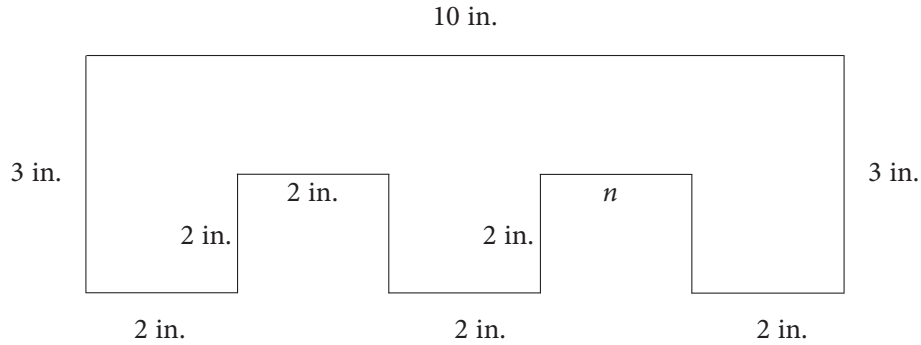
11a. What is the length of side n? _____

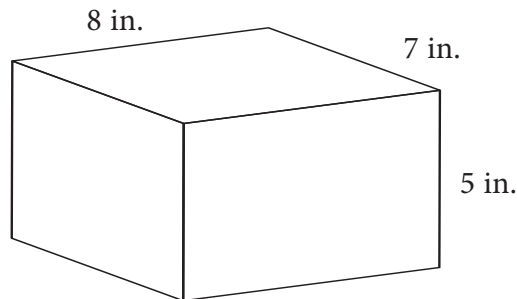**11b.** What is the area of the figure in square inches? _____

---

12. Solve each absolute value problem.

12a. $9 + |-7| =$ _____

12b. $302 - |54| =$ _____

12c. $|-12| + |-85| =$ _____

---

13. A box is shaped like a rectangular prism. Find the surface area of the box.

8 in.

7 in.

5 in.

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Go On

Posttest (cont.)

14. Kahil wants to spend $20 on new apps for his phone. He also plans to download some songs for $0.99 each. If Kahil has $45 to spend total, what is the most he can spend on song downloads? Write an inequality, and graph the solution on the number line.

<———>

---

15. The entry fee to the craft festival fair is $10.00. Each craft costs $0.50. Britta spent $15.00. How many crafts did she buy?

Ⓐ   9   Ⓒ   11

Ⓑ   10   Ⓓ   12

---

16. A set contains the numbers 0, 2, 5, 7 and 10. A number is selected randomly from the set, and then a second number is selected randomly from the four remaining numbers. What is the probability that each of the given events will occur? Write a number in each box to complete the fraction that represents the probability of each event.

16a.   Probability that the sum is greater than 7: $\dfrac{\Box}{\Box}$

**16b.**   Probability that the product is zero: $\dfrac{\Box}{\Box}$

---

17. Chelsea's recipe calls for $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of strawberries for every 3 cups of juice. If she decreases the amount of juice to 2 cups, how many cups of strawberries will she need?

Posttest (cont.)

18. Luz does not want to pay more than $15.00 for a pizza pan. Select all of the following descriptions for prices of pizza pans Luz would buy.

(A)   35% off a $25 pizza pan plus $4 shipping

(B)   20% off a $20 pizza pan

(C)   45% off a $20 pizza pan plus $6 shipping

(D)   A $8 pizza pan with $5 shipping

(E)   10% off a $10 pizza pan plus $6 shipping

---

19. This spinner has 8 equal-sized sections labeled 0, 1, or 2. The arrow on the spinner is spun. Write all possible outcomes for each probability category.
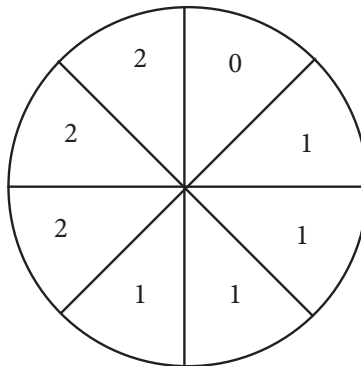
Probability Greater than $\frac{1}{4}$	**Probability Less than** $\frac{1}{4}$

---

20. Daryl mixes 5 gallons of floor cleaning solution for the school dance by mixing 1 gallon of concentrate with 4 gallons of water. Which part of every gallon is from concentrate? The model represents 1 gallon of mixed cleaning solution. Color the bars to represent how much of each gallon is from concentrate.
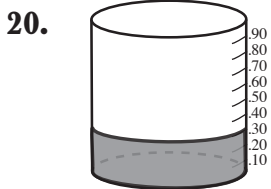
Stop
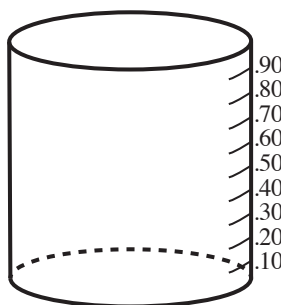
Pretest Answer Key

1a. D

1b. Answers will vary. Possible answer: The text is expository because each sentence in the paragraph informs the reader. For example, "Each musician must not only be skilled at reading music and playing an instrument but also be able to follow and respond to the conductor's precise gestures" explains something that the reader might not know about orchestra musicians.

2. A and C

3. C

4. Answers will vary. Possible answer: Performing a symphony is a complex task. The conductor must know every part of the musical arrangement and be able to cue each player.

5. B

6. Answers will vary. Possible answer: "Plain Old Me" would be a good title because it fits both the beginning and ending "events" in the poem.

7. dishonest, unique

8. B

9. D

10. A, B, and D should be marked

11a. 3 ft.

11b. 27 ft.²

12a. 12

12b. 41

12c. 60

13. $SA = 2\,(4 \times 4) + 4\,(4 \times 6) = 128$ in.²

14. $0.3x \le 50$; $x \le 166.67$

15. D

16a. $\frac{4}{10}$ or $\frac{2}{5}$

16b. $\frac{4}{10}$ or $\frac{2}{5}$

17. $\frac{3}{6}$ cup or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup

18. B, D, and E

19.

Probability Greater than $\frac{1}{3}$	Probability Equal to $\frac{1}{3}$	Probability Less than $\frac{1}{3}$
Landing on a 0	Landing on a 3	Landing on a 2
		Landing on a 1

20.

Posttest Answer Key

1a. D

1b. Answers will vary. Possible answer: The text is expository because each sentence in the paragraph informs the reader. For example the sentence, "It wasn't until the 1600s that the Spanish discovered this uniquely Mexican product," explains something that the reader might not know about the Spanish.

2. B and C

3. D

4. Answers will vary. Possible answer: These native people of Mexico would grind up cacao seeds, and then mix them with water, chile peppers, and other ingredients. It would be another 100 years or so before Europeans developed a taste for chocolate, and then only because something was added that the Maya did not have–sugar.

5. C

6. Answers will vary. Possible answer: "Imagination" would be a good title because it fits both the events and descriptions in the poem.

7. Answers will vary. Possible answer: She compared the portrayal of wolves as "big and bad" in two different stories.

8. C

9. C

10. A, B, and C

11a. 2 in.

11b. 22 in.^{2}

12a. 16

12b. 248

12c. 97

13. $SA = 2(7 \times 8) + 2(7 \times 5) + 2(5 \times 8) = 262$ in.^{2}

14. $0.99x + 20 \leq 45; 0 \leq x \leq 25$

15. B

16a. $\frac{6}{10}$ or $\frac{3}{5}$

16b. $\frac{4}{10}$ or $\frac{2}{5}$

17. $\frac{2}{9}$ cup

18. D and E

19.

Probability Greater than $\frac{1}{4}$	Probability Less than $\frac{1}{4}$
Landing on a 1	Landing on a 0
Landing on a 2	

20.