

Grade 6

Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division

Student Booklet Language

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SPRING 2008

**RELEASED SELECTIONS AND
ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

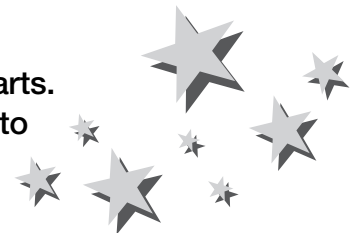
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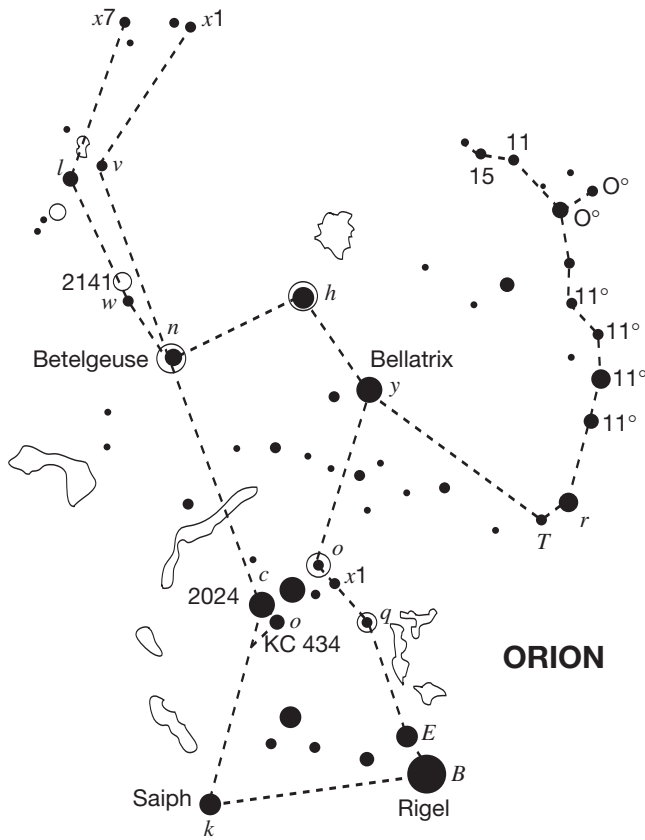
Please note: The format of these booklets is slightly different from that used for the assessment. The items themselves remain the same.

Constellations

Scientists use star charts to break up the night sky into smaller parts. There is a standard way to connect each star to the next in order to show constellations, or star groups. In nearly every star atlas, you will see the constellation Orion drawn as it is below.



Each star on this chart is labelled. The labels show the position of the stars in their small area of sky.



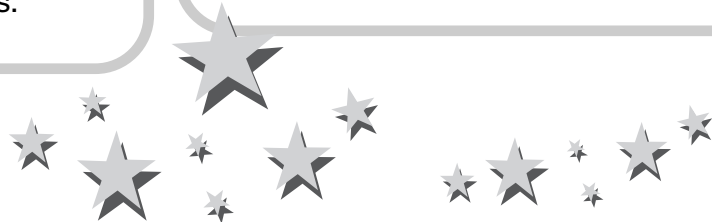
The purpose of finding and naming constellations is to help people remember the position of each of the stars.

In many places around the world, there is not much difference from one season to the next. Farmers can use the changing positions and visibility of the many constellations to tell which season it is and when it is time to plant or harvest their crops. In the days before charts, sailors used the stars' positions to help guide them to their destinations.

The star Betelgeuse is located at Orion's left shoulder. The star called Rigel is Orion's right foot.

There are many myths and legends about each constellation. Poets, farmers and astronomers have been making these stories up for over six thousand years!

Orion is also known as the Great Hunter. Orion is one of the largest constellations in the sky. If you hold your arm out and spread your fingers, you will just be able to cover your view of Orion. This constellation can be seen from late summer to early spring in our part of the world.



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- 1** In our part of the world, one can see the constellation Orion from
- a late winter to early spring.
 - b late spring to early autumn.
 - c late summer to early spring.
 - d late autumn to early summer.
- 2** The star Bellatrix is located at Orion's
- a left arm.
 - b right arm.
 - c left shoulder.
 - d right shoulder.
- 3** A constellation is best defined as
- a an atlas.
 - b a star chart.
 - c an astronomer.
 - d a cluster of stars.
- 4** Which of the following types of writing best describes this selection?
- a legend
 - b narrative
 - c non-fiction
 - d historical fiction

5 How does the star chart help the reader understand this selection? Use specific details and examples from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

6 Why might people compare the location of the stars to a body shape? Use specific details and examples from the selection to support your answer.

Comet's Tale



A half-century ago, the first jetliner delighted passengers with swift, smooth flights— 1
until a structural flaw doomed its glory.

Jet passenger airplanes take us to far away places, quickly and efficiently. Have you heard 2
of a Boeing 707? What about a De Havilland Comet? On May 2, 1952, the Comet 1
became the first jet passenger plane ever to fly a scheduled commercial route. Flying at 740
kilometres per hour, it left all of the propeller-driven planes in its dust. In its first year, the
Comet jetliner carried 28 000 passengers millions of kilometres. But exactly a year later, it
taught engineers a grave lesson about how metal responds to changes in pressure.

After three Comets crashed, the British Ministry of Civil Aviation went looking for 3
answers. How could planes that had been flying flawlessly for a year suddenly rupture in
midair? To find out, they put the body of a Comet in a giant tank of water, and filled the
body with water. Then they started increasing and decreasing the pressure inside the plane.
When a jet climbs high into the sky, the air inside is put under pressure so that the people
inside can breathe. When the plane lands, that pressure is released. By pumping water into
and out of the submerged plane body, the investigating engineers were able to simulate
what the plane would go through in flight. When the plane body had undergone the
equivalent of 9000 hours of flight, the metal simply wore out and could no longer contain
the pressurized water inside.

While the Comet never carried another passenger, and Boeing and other jet manufacturers 4
solved the metal fatigue problem, it was the De Havilland Comet that introduced the world
to commercial jet travel.

From an abstract of an article by Robert G. Pushkar, originally published in the June 2002 edition of *Smithsonian*.
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- 7** The details in paragraph 1 are used to
- a give a conclusion.
 - b make a prediction.
 - c introduce the topic.
 - d provide a quotation.
- 8** According to the selection, the problem with the Comet was that
- a it flew too far for the metal it was made of.
 - b it flew too fast for the metal it was made of.
 - c the metal it was made of wore out over a period of time.
 - d the metal it was made of broke after carrying 28 000 passengers.
- 9** Which word could best replace “fatigue” in paragraph 4?
- a size
 - b design
 - c support
 - d weakness
- 10** The main idea of the selection is that
- a the Comet was the first commercial jet, but it was flawed.
 - b engineers were able to discover problems with the Comet.
 - c the Comet used jet engines instead of propellers for flight.
 - d air pressure on commercial jets is similar to water pressure.

11 Why was the Comet an important plane in the history of flight? Use specific details and examples from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

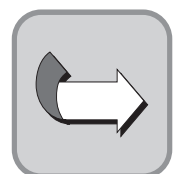
12 How did the failure of the Comet help engineers make planes safer? Use specific details and examples from the selection to support your answer.

13 Describe and compare the seasons in Ontario.

Ideas for My Description and Comparison

Remember:

- Check over your work.
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

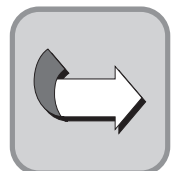


- 14** You are an explorer and have discovered a new land. Write several diary entries describing your experience.

Ideas for My Diary Entries

Remember:

- Check over your work.
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.



**Education Quality and
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