

Grade 6

Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division

Student Booklet Language 2

SPRING 2010

RELEASED SELECTIONS AND ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Record your answers on the Multiple-Choice
Answer Sheet.

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Please note: The format of
this booklet is different from
that used for the assessment.
The items themselves remain
the same.


Language 2

Section C

The Living Fossil



It was Friday afternoon, and Jason and Tara were going back to school after eating lunch. Walking along the sidewalk, Jason noticed that some people were under a large tree, picking something from the grass and putting it in plastic bags.	1
“I wonder what they are doing,” said Tara.	2
“I don’t know,” said Jason. “Let’s find out!”	3
They walked over to where three women were picking up small yellow plum-like fruit and placing it in their bags.	4
“What are you doing?” inquired Tara.	5
“These are ginkgo seeds,” one lady replied. “They have an outer skin that we squish off to get at the inside kernel.”	6
“Oh, do they ever stink!” said Jason. “They smell like old cheese!”	7
The lady laughed. “They certainly do, and the skin is extremely sticky!”	8
“What do you do with the seeds?” asked Tara.	9
“They help keep us healthy. They’re a kind of medicine. We use the seeds when we have coughs and colds. They’re really quite tasty.”	10
Jason looked up and noticed that the tree was covered in yellow fan-shaped leaves. And on each branch, there were ginkgo seeds—lots of them! Tara picked some of the leaves from the ground and stuck them in her pocket. “Let’s show the class.”	11
When they arrived at school, Ms. Blackstock was in the room. “Look what we found on our way to school,” said Jason.	12
“Those leaves certainly do look interesting,” said Ms. Blackstock. “What are they?”	13
“Ginkgo leaves,” replied Jason rather excitedly. “A lady was picking the seeds from this tree.”	14
“Since we are studying plants in science, why don’t both of you do some research on the tree,” responded Ms. Blackstock.	15
Tara and Jason went to the library and used the computers and books to investigate the tree.	16

- They discovered that the ginkgo tree is actually a living fossil! 17
- “Wow,” said Jason, “look at this. The ginkgo has been around since the dinosaurs! It says here that the leaves have been found as fossils in rocks and that the tree has no close living relatives.” 18
- “Not only that,” interjected Tara, “this book says that the seeds are used as medicine, like the lady said, to help cure respiratory problems, and the leaves are boiled down to make a liquid that is supposed to improve memory.” 19
- When they returned to the classroom, Ms. Blackstock asked them what they had discovered. “This is a unique tree,” Tara said. “We discovered lots of fascinating information about how it is used as a medicine, and we found out that Chinese people used the leaf design in paintings and fabric, and that it’s been found in ancient pottery.” 20
- “Well, let’s share this information with the class,” said Ms. Blackstock. 21
- Tara and Jason spent the next few minutes telling the class about their discovery. “One really interesting fact,” stated Jason, “is that the ginkgo is an endangered species.” 22
- Manjeet asked, “What does that mean?” 23
- Jason explained that it is believed the only place the tree grows wild is in China and that the wild ginkgo is in danger of disappearing, so it is protected from clear-cutting. Tara described how this ancient tree is used in cities and towns like theirs to provide shade and to help clean the air of pollution. 24
- Olivia said that her grandmother had a bowl made of ginkgo wood in her house. “I could bring it in tomorrow for the class to see.” 25
- “That would be great,” replied Ms. Blackstock. 26
-  27
- The class continued to ask lots of questions, and Ms. Blackstock had to stop the discussion so they could get to their math lesson. “I want to thank Tara and Jason for telling us about this amazing living fossil,” said Ms. Blackstock.
- On the way home, Jason and Tara stopped by the tree once more, and Jason said, “I didn’t know that we had such a thing as a living fossil here in Southern Ontario right under our noses!” 28
- “Phew, although it doesn’t smell very good, it is still a beautiful tree,” said Tara. 29

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- 1** The text is organized by
- a cause and effect.
 - b sequence of events.
 - c order of importance.
 - d problem and solution.
- 2** Why would it be surprising to discover that the seeds are “quite tasty” (paragraph 10)?
- a They are like plums.
 - b They are fan shaped.
 - c Their odour is unusual.
 - d Their outer skin is soft.
- 3** In paragraph 11, why does Tara pick the ginkgo leaves up from the ground?
- a She wants to try to grow her own tree.
 - b She wants to squish them in her fingers.
 - c She wants to take them to her grandmother.
 - d She wants to share the discovery with others.
- 4** Ms. Blackstock is an important character because she
- a encourages Jason and Tara to research the ginkgo tree.
 - b stops the class discussion so that the math lesson can begin.
 - c provides the students with information about the ginkgo tree.
 - d takes Jason and Tara to the library to use computers and books.
- 5** The ginkgo tree is referred to as a living fossil because it has no close living relatives and
- a provided food for dinosaurs.
 - b its seeds are used for medicine.
 - c has been around for a long time.
 - d is represented in ancient paintings.

- 6** According to Tara’s research, how are ginkgo seeds helpful?
- a They help to improve memory.
 - b They clean the air of pollution.
 - c They create designs in paintings.
 - d They help treat respiratory problems.
- 7** In paragraph 19, the word “interjected” means
- a interfered.
 - b interacted.
 - c introduced.
 - d interrupted.
- 8** The word “endangered” as used in paragraph 22 means
- a protected.
 - b threatened.
 - c discovered.
 - d investigated.
- 9** The most important reason to protect the ginkgo tree from clear-cutting is that
- a the leaves are used in artistic works.
 - b the trees are becoming fewer in number.
 - c ginkgo leaves give shade in hot climates.
 - d ginkgo trees have been around for a long time.
- 10** Where does most of the information about ginkgo trees come from?
- a the teacher’s lesson
 - b the students’ research
 - c the lady’s explanation
 - d the grandmother’s artifact

11 Explain how dialogue in the text helps the reader understand one of the characters. Use specific details from the text to support your answer.

12 Explain an important theme that is conveyed through the text. Use specific details to support your answer.

Writing Multiple-Choice

13 Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a Yesterday I saw a deer; it was standing in my backyard when I arrived home.
- b Yesterday; I saw a deer it was standing in my backyard when I arrived home.
- c Yesterday I saw a deer it was standing in my backyard; when I arrived home.
- d Yesterday I saw a deer it was standing; in my backyard when I arrived home.

14 Choose the best closing sentence for the following paragraph.

Tracy Stewart is having a great career as a singer. She has had many number-one albums, both as a popular solo artist and as part of the band Big Fun. She is one of the most recognized pop stars in the world and continues to make popular music. _____

- a Tracy Stewart is better as a solo performer.
- b Tracy Stewart has a very recognizable voice.
- c Tracy Stewart is known for her energetic style.
- d Tracy Stewart will be successful for a long time.

15 Choose the correct order to make a paragraph using the sentences below.

- (1) They were relieved that it was nothing serious.
- (2) People looked out their windows to see what happened.
- (3) Loud noises awoke everyone on the street.
- (4) They saw a truck with a flat tire bumping down the road.

- a 2, 3, 1, 4
- b 2, 4, 1, 3
- c 3, 2, 4, 1
- d 3, 4, 2, 1

16 Choose the word that has the same meaning as the words in bold in the following sentence.

The picture showed a grizzly bear standing next to a car, and the bear looked **very big**.

- a major
- b plentiful
- c abundant
- d immense

17 Write instructions that help a student prepare for and take a test successfully.

Ideas for My Instructions

Remember:

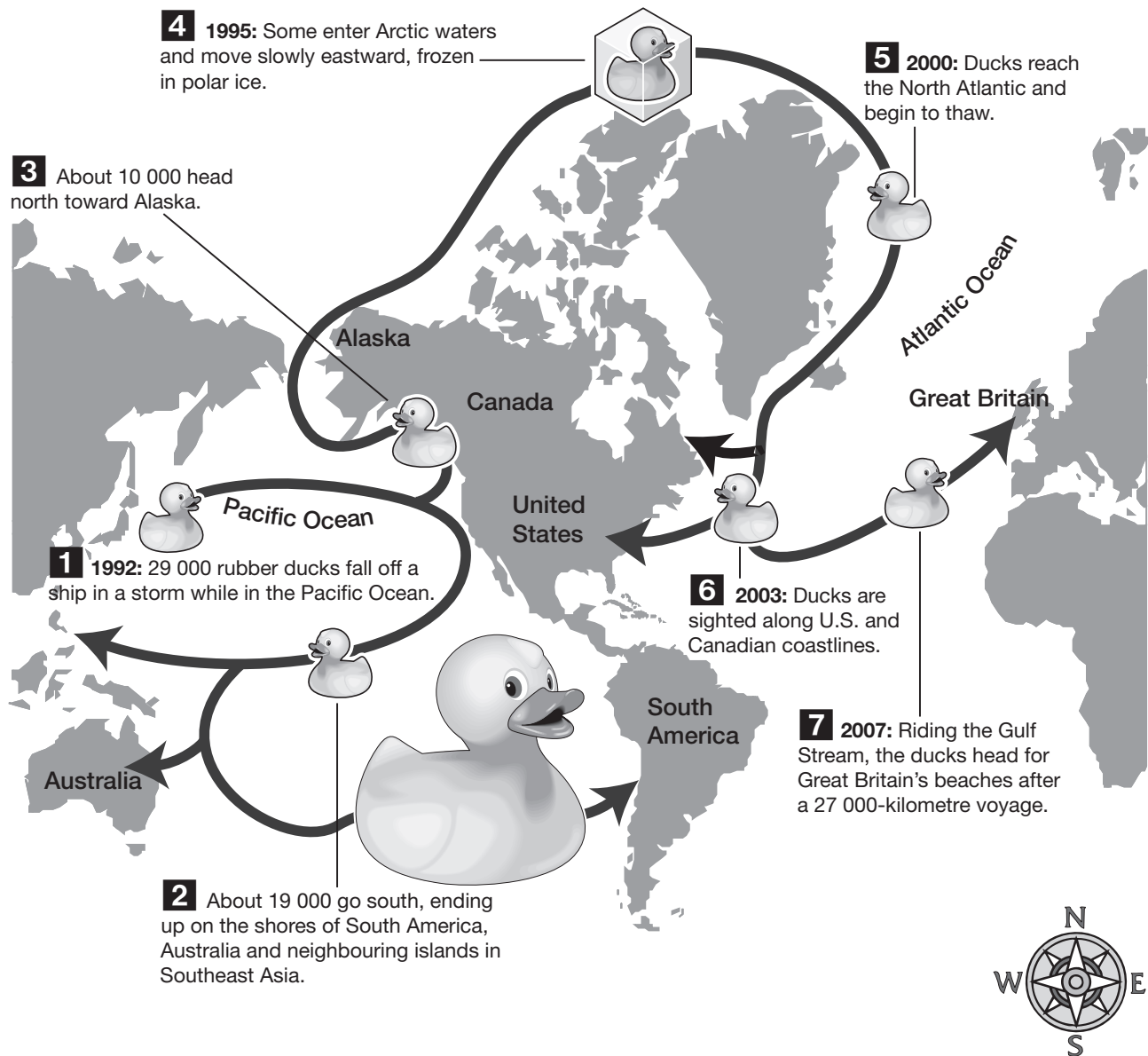
- Check over your work.
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Language 2

Section D

The Rubber Duck: A Researcher's Best Friend

In 2007, scientists and beachcombers were awaiting the arrival of a group of rubber ducks on British shores. The ducks fell off a cargo ship into the Pacific Ocean in 1992. Researchers charting the world's ocean currents are interested in the journey of these bath toys. The ducks are so valuable that researchers are offering a \$100 reward to anybody who finds one.



Adapted from "The rubber duck: A researcher's best friend." Source: Graphic News. Represented with permission of Graphic News.

- 18** How many kilometres was the journey for the ducks before arriving in Great Britain?
- a 10 000
 - b 19 000
 - c 27 000
 - d 29 000
- 19** Why did the ducks get separated after they fell off the ship?
- a People kept them for the reward.
 - b They became trapped in the ice.
 - c They were caught by different currents.
 - d Scientists made them to go in different directions.
- 20** The dates are provided in the text to help the reader
- a tell where the ducks were found.
 - b learn how the ducks were sighted.
 - c know which ducks had been on the journey.
 - d understand the length of the ducks' journeys.
- 21** What does the "Gulf Stream" refer to in this text?
- a a ship
 - b a river
 - c a wave
 - d a current

22 Explain how the numbers in the small black boxes are helpful to the reader. Use details and information from the text to support your answer.

23 Why did researchers offer a reward for the return of each rubber duck? Use details from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

24 You are an astronaut who has just returned from outer space. Write a news report about your journey.



Ideas for My News Report

Remember:

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

Writing Multiple-Choice

- 25** Choose the best opening sentence for the following paragraph.

_____ In just one year, he won three out of the four grand slam tennis tournaments, which are the toughest tennis tournaments to win. Costa has also won many other titles. Great effort and consistency have made Virgil Costa the best male tennis player in the world.

- a Virgil Costa was born in Portugal.
- b Virgil Costa shows great sportsmanship.
- c Virgil Costa is respected in his home country.
- d Virgil Costa is an extremely successful tennis player.

- 26** Choose the punctuation that is missing from the following sentence.

I am so happy that the warm weather has arrived, said the teacher.

- a apostrophe
 - b question mark
 - c quotation marks
 - d exclamation mark
- 27** Choose the word that correctly completes the following sentence.

Many people tried out for the school play, but only _____ were selected for roles.

- a both
- b most
- c none
- d some

- 28** Which is the best way to combine the information in the following sentences?

Gas prices are rising.

Motorcycles are fuel-efficient.

Motorcycles have become more popular lately.

- a Fuel-efficient motorcycles have become more popular lately because of rising gas prices.
- b Motorcycles are popular lately and, because of rising gas prices, they are fuel-efficient.
- c Because of rising gas prices, motorcycles have become fuel-efficient lately, and they are popular.
- d Lately, motorcycles are fuel-efficient and have become more popular because gas prices are rising.



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