Smarter Balanced
Sample Test/Performance Task Questions
ELA/Literacy, Grades 3-5

ELA/Literacy
Grade 3

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Sample test question: What inference can be made about the author’s message about animals? Include information from the passage to support your answer.

Sample performance task: Explain why it is hard to be an astronaut. Give two reasons, one form Source #1 and one from Source #2. For each reason, include the source title or number.

ELA/Literacy
Grade 4

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Sample test question: What conclusion can be drawn about the author’s point of view? Support your answer with details from the passage.

Sample performance task: Source #1 discusses what some animals do to survive in their environment. Explain how the information in Source #2 adds to the reader’s understanding of what some animals do to survive in their environment. Give two details from Source #2 to support your explanation.

ELA/Literacy
Grade 5

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Sample test question: Which statement best summarizes the central idea of the text?

A. Traveling by ship is difficult and causes sickness.
B. Carlotta feels very ill on the ship and Enzio knows how to help her.
C. There are more people on the ship than live in the entire Italian village where Enzio is from.
D. Traveling to a unfamiliar country is more interesting when the experiences are shared with a new friend.

Sample performance task: The sources discuss how service animals help people. Explain what you have learned about how service animals help people. Use one detail from Source #1 and one detail from Source #2 to support your explanation. For each detail, include the source title or number.

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