



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2006**

**Grade 4
Reading**

Reading

① The word hear belongs in which sentence?

- A. People come ____ for vacation.
- B. I want to sit ____ by the window.
- C. She can ____ us talking loudly.
- D. Please put my books over ____.

② Which word has a suffix (ending) that means most?

- A. clearest
- B. visitors
- C. jobless
- D. cleaning

Read this poem about a secret place. Then answer the questions that follow.

Under the Back Porch

Our house is two stories high
shaped like a white box.
There is a yard stretched around it
and in back
a wooden porch.

Under the back porch is my place.
I rest there.
I go there when I have to be alone.
It is always shaded and damp.
Sunlight only slants through the slats
in long strips of light,
and the smell of the damp
is moist green,
like the moss that grows here.

My sisters and brothers
can stand on the back porch
and never know
I am here
underneath.
It is my place.
All mine.

—*Virginia Hamilton*

Our house is two stories high shaped like a white box.

- 3 Which sentence uses the word stories in the **same** way?
- A. She likes to read long stories to us.
 - B. I wrote some stories for the newspaper.
 - C. Our school building is three stories tall.
 - D. My grandfather tells stories about his old house.
- 4 Why does the speaker like to rest under the back porch?
- A. to scare her sisters and brothers
 - B. to look at the plants growing there
 - C. to play in the long strips of sunlight
 - D. to be alone in a place she enjoys

- 5 In this poem, “the smell of the damp” reminds the speaker of the
- A. dark shade.
 - B. strips of sunlight.
 - C. moss that is growing.
 - D. wooden porch boards.
- 6 Which words mean the **opposite** of underneath?
- A. on top of
 - B. next to
 - C. to one side of
 - D. close to

A fascinating place is somewhere very interesting. Read this passage about why forests are fascinating places. Then answer the questions that follow.

Fascinating Forests

by Luann Hankom

A forest is an area of land where trees grow close together. It's an environment filled with life: trees, plants, animals, and insects. Forests grow all over the world. Differences in climate, soil, and water have created three major forest types.

Most forests can be divided from top to bottom into five basic layers.

The leaves at the tops of the tallest trees form the first layer, called the **canopy**. Every forest has a canopy, sometimes more than 100 feet above the ground! The leafy branches and twigs provide shelter to all the forest life below. Some forest canopies are so thick that not much sunlight reaches the forest floor.

Just beneath the canopy, there's a lot of activity. In tropical rain forests, brightly colored birds like toucans search for fruit, while monkeys climb the branches. In other forests, small birds like warblers fly in the branches, as caterpillars munch on leaves. A downy woodpecker taps on a spruce, and an owl sleeps in its nest.

The second layer down is the **understory**, with smaller trees that are at least 33 feet tall. Some of the trees in this layer have grown as tall as they ever will. Others are young saplings, smaller versions of the giants that make up the canopy.

Third is the **shrub layer**. This layer is made up of plants with tough, woody stems, growing from 3 feet to 33 feet high. In tropical seasonal forests, bamboo and palm trees grow in this layer. Shrubs can grow thick on the forest floor if there's enough sunlight.

Fourth, the **herb layer** grows below the shrubs. This layer includes soft plants such as ferns, grasses, and wildflowers. Butterflies and bees are attracted to their bright flowers. Snakes slither, mice scuttle, and turtles plod along in the herb layer.

The fifth layer is the **ground layer**, or forest floor, which is cool, moist, and dark. Here are mosses, lichens, tree roots, and animal droppings. Dead leaves cover the ground, and rotting logs are scattered about. Spiders, beetles, and centipedes crawl along the ground.

From top to bottom, around the world, forests are fascinating places.

Due to copyright restrictions, we are unable to reprint the illustration that accompanied the passage in this document. The illustration showed the forest layers and the animals that live within each layer.

8 According to the passage, which statement is true about a forest canopy?

- A. Most of its trees are around 33 feet tall.
- B. Bamboo and palm trees grow there.
- C. Leafy branches and twigs provide shelter there.
- D. Butterflies are attracted to its bright flowers.

9 Which layer of the forest has soft plants such as ferns?

- A. the canopy layer
- B. the shrub layer
- C. the herb layer
- D. the ground layer

10 Which sentence states an **opinion**?

- A. "A forest is an area of land where trees grow close together."
- B. "Most forests can be divided from top to bottom into five basic layers."
- C. "Butterflies and bees are attracted to their bright flowers."
- D. "From top to bottom, around the world, forests are fascinating places."

11 Which word has the same **vowel sound** as ferns?

- A. search
- B. fruit
- C. here
- D. plants

- 12 Use four details from the passage to complete the chart. The first part has been filled in for you.

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	brightly colored toucans
Understory	
Shrub Layer	
Herb Layer	
Ground Layer	

Acknowledgments

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Grade 4 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand¹	WV	WV	WV	LA	LI	WV	LA	II	II	IA	WV	II
GLE Code	3-3	3-2	3-3	3-5	3-4	3-3	3-5	3-7	3-7	3-8	3-1	3-7
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1
Item Type²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	C	A	C	D	C	A		C	C	D	A	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation, II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, SA = Short Answer, CR = Constructed Response