



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2006**

**Grade 5
Reading**

Reading

- ① A synonym (same meaning) for the word annual is
- A. yearly.
 - B. brief.
 - C. frequent.
 - D. endless.

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

passage *n.* **1.** a journey or voyage: *The passage by ship took more than two weeks.* **2.** a way through: *Not many people know about the passage in the woods that leads to my house.* **3.** a section or piece of writing: *We were asked to read the passage and answer the questions.* **4.** the passing of a law by a legislature: *The passage of the bill into law was met with cheers.*

- ② The hikers had been trying to find a passage through the mountains.
- Which is the **best** definition of the word passage as it is used in this sentence?
- A. definition 1
 - B. definition 2
 - C. definition 3
 - D. definition 4

Read this article about the historic Apollo 11 mission to the moon. Then answer the questions that follow.

The *Eagle* Has Landed

Curiosity about the unknown led early voyagers to our shores. They called it the *New World* back then. Nearly five hundred years later, that same spirit led Americans to a more distant world—the moon.

It was one of humankind’s oldest dreams. For hundreds of years, people had looked to the sky and wondered if they would ever walk on the moon.

“Never.” Some shook their heads. “It can’t be done.”

“Someday,” the dreamers insisted.

One July morning in 1969, three Americans, named Neil Armstrong, Mike Collins, and Buzz Aldrin, climbed into a tiny space capsule atop a giant rocket and waited for a countdown. Five huge engines thundered to life. Flames and smoke poured across the launchpad and Apollo 11 rode a column of fire into the sky.

“We have liftoff!” announced a voice on the ground.

No one knew if the men on board would ever make it back.

Gazing down, the astronauts saw the wide curve of the Earth with its spreading seas and lush forests and drifting clouds. Through the capsule’s window, they watched their planet shrink into a blue and white sphere. The spaceship rolled and the Earth slipped silently out of sight.

For three days, the Apollo 11 astronauts hurtled into the blackness of space. A second sphere, this one gray and lifeless, swelled until it filled their window. Then they were circling the moon.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin squeezed through a hatch and crawled into a boxy, four-

legged landing vehicle named the *Eagle*. In this fragile craft they would try to drop to the moon’s surface while Mike Collins flew high above, ready to rescue his friends if anything went wrong.

10 The radio hissed and crackled. A voice called from Mission Control in Houston, Texas, a quarter million miles away, “You are go for separation.”

Slowly, the *Eagle* and the mother ship backed away from each other. The lander floated free.

“The *Eagle* has wings,” Neil Armstrong reported to Earth. Inside the cramped cabin, he and Aldrin watched the ghostly moonscape rolling by.

13 Everything was ready. Another order came from Houston. “You are go for powered descent.”

The engine fired and the *Eagle* began its short downward journey. Armstrong nodded and Aldrin grinned to himself. They were going to land on the moon.

The spacecraft continued downward.

Armstrong turned to the window to look for their landing zone. He did not like what he saw. They were not where they were supposed to be.

The computer was programmed to steer the ship to a flat, smooth place for a landing. But it had overshot its target. They were plunging straight toward an area littered with deadly rocks and craters.

A light blinked on the control panel. They were running out of landing fuel.

There was no time to waste. Armstrong gripped the hand controller and took command from the computer. He had to find a place where they could set down, fast, or they would have to fire rockets and return to space.

20 Gently he brought the *Eagle* under his control. The lander hovered as Armstrong searched the ground below for a level spot.

“Sixty seconds,” the voice from Mission Control warned.

Sixty seconds of fuel left.

Balanced on a cone of fire, the *Eagle* scooted over rocky ridges and yawning craters.

There was no place to land!

“Thirty seconds!”

Now there was no turning back. If the engines gulped the last of the landing fuel, there would be no time to fire the rockets that could take them back into orbit. They would crash.

The landing craft swooped across boulder fields as its pilot hunted, judged, and committed. Flames shot down as the *Eagle* dropped the last few feet. Dust that had lain still for a billion years flew up and swallowed the craft.

Back on Earth, millions of people held their breaths and waited. They prayed and listened.

Then Neil Armstrong’s faint voice came crackling across the gulf of space. “Houston, Tranquility Base here. The *Eagle* has landed.”

30 In a short while a hatch on the ladder opened. A man in a bulky space suit backed down nine rungs of a ladder and placed his foot on the gray lunar soil. People all over the world watched the fuzzy black-and-white images on their television screens. They leaned toward their sets to catch the first words spoken by Neil Armstrong from the surface of the moon.

“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

A few minutes later Buzz Aldrin crawled out of the *Eagle* to join his comrade. Together the astronauts planted a flag. It would never flap in a breeze on the airless moon, so a stiff wire held it out from its pole. Aldrin stepped back and saluted the Stars and Stripes.

America had made the age-old dream come true. When they departed, our astronauts left behind a plaque that will always remain. Its words proclaim:

HERE MEN FROM THE PLANET EARTH
FIRST SET FOOT UPON THE MOON
JULY, 1969 AD
WE CAME IN PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND

- 3 In paragraph 10, the phrase “You are go for separation” means that Mission Control is
- A. warning the crew of dangerous rocks.
 - B. informing the crew of the best way to land.
 - C. giving the crew permission to launch the lander.
 - D. telling the crew they can no longer be heard on Earth.
- 4 What did Neil Armstrong mean when he said, “The *Eagle* has wings”?
- A. The wings on the lander were failing.
 - B. The lander was safe on the moon’s surface.
 - C. The lander was free from the mother ship.
 - D. The wings on the lander opened properly.
- 5 In paragraph 13, the word descent means the
- A. climb upward.
 - B. trip downward.
 - C. flight toward Earth.
 - D. circling around the moon.
- 6 In paragraph 20, the word hovered means
- A. rose steadily.
 - B. raced sideways.
 - C. bobbed up and down.
 - D. hung in the air.
- 7 During their trip to the moon, the astronauts of Apollo 11 faced a serious problem. Describe this problem and explain how it was solved. Use information from the article to support your answer.

- 8 How did Neil Armstrong let Mission Control know that the astronauts had landed safely on the moon?
- A. by placing a plaque on the moon's surface
 - B. by stepping out of the *Eagle* and waving
 - C. by planting a flag on the moon's surface
 - D. by sending the message "The *Eagle* has landed"

- 9 In paragraph 30, the word lunar refers to
- A. the moon.
 - B. Earth.
 - C. sand.
 - D. the rock.

- 10 In the article, which event happened **first**?
- A. Armstrong looked for a landing zone.
 - B. Apollo 11 rode a column of fire into the sky.
 - C. Flames shot down as the *Eagle* dropped.
 - D. The landing craft swooped across boulder fields.

- 11 Which statement is an **opinion**?
- A. "It can't be done."
 - B. "We have liftoff!"
 - C. "The spacecraft continued downward."
 - D. "The *Eagle* has landed."

- 12 Why was Neil Armstrong a good person to take part in the Apollo 11 mission? Use information from the article to support your answer.

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Grade 5 Reading Released Item Information

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