

2006

FCAT

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

Student Name _____

READING

READING SAMPLE TEST BOOK



FCAT Sample Test Materials

These sample test materials are designed to help you prepare to answer FCAT questions. These materials introduce you to the kinds of questions you will answer when you take FCAT and include hints for responding to the different kinds of FCAT questions. The FCAT Reading sample test materials for Grade 4 are composed of the books described below:

- ☒ **Sample Test Book**
Includes sample reading passages, a sample test, and instructions for completing the sample test. (Copies are available for all students in the tested grade.)
 - ☐ **Sample Answer Key**
Includes answers and explanations for the questions in the sample test. (Copies are available for classroom teachers only.)
- ☒ = This book

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Taking the FCAT Reading Sample Test

Hints for Taking the FCAT Reading Test

Here are some hints to help you do your best when you take the FCAT Reading test. Keep these hints in mind when you answer the sample questions.

- ✓ **Learn how to answer each kind of question.** The FCAT Reading test for Grade 4 has three types of questions: multiple-choice, short-response, and extended-response.
- ✓ **Read the directions carefully.** Ask your teacher to explain any directions you do not understand.
- ✓ **Read the passages and questions very carefully.** You may look back at a passage as often as you like.
- ✓ **Answer the questions you are sure about first.** If a question seems too difficult, skip it and go back to it later.
- ✓ **Be sure to fill in the answer bubbles correctly.** Do not make any stray marks around answer spaces.
- ✓ **Think positively.** Some questions may seem hard, but others will be easy.
- ✓ **Check each answer to make sure it is the best answer for the question.**
- ✓ **Relax.** Some people get nervous about tests. It's natural. Just do your best.

How to Answer the “Read, Think, Explain” Questions

Answers to the short- and extended-response questions can receive full or partial credit. You should try to answer these questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer. If a portion of the answer is correct, you will get a portion of the points.

- ✓ Allow about 5 minutes to answer the short “Read, Think, Explain” questions and about 10 to 15 minutes to answer the long questions.
- ✓ Read the question carefully.
- ✓ If you do not understand the question, go back and review the passage.
- ✓ Think carefully and organize your thoughts before starting to write the answer.
- ✓ Write your answer on the lines provided in the Sample Answer Book.
- ✓ Remember to include details and information from the passage in your answer.
- ✓ Use clear, concise language to explain your answer.
- ✓ Be sure to answer every part of the question.
- ✓ Reread the answer to make sure it says what you want it to say.

Directions for Taking the Reading Sample Test

Some of the questions in this sample test are called multiple-choice questions. **A multiple-choice question is followed by several answer choices.** Read all the answer choices under each question and decide which answer is correct. For this sample test, you will fill in the bubble next to the answer choice you think is correct for each multiple-choice question.

The Sample Test contains two reading passages and 16 sample questions. It should take about 30 to 45 minutes to read the passages and answer all the questions. You will mark your answers in this book. If you don’t understand a question, just ask your teacher to explain it to you. Your teacher has the answers to the sample test questions.

FCAT Reading Sample Test



Here is a list with pictures to help you locate the passages in your Reading Sample Test. The questions follow each passage.

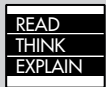


The Red Fox Page 4



Living on the Edge of Danger Page 10

After you have read each passage, read and answer the questions.



This symbol appears next to questions that require short written answers. Use about 5 minutes to answer each of these questions.

A complete and correct answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points. A partially correct answer is worth 1 point.

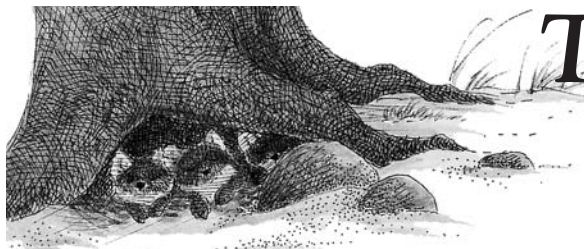


This symbol appears next to questions that require longer written answers. Use about 10 to 15 minutes to answer these questions.

A complete and correct answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points. A partially correct answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.



Read the story "The Red Fox" before answering Numbers 1 through 8.



The Red Fox

by Donna Stringfellow

Art by Sylvia Long-Spain



IT WAS COLD in the forest. A bitter March wind rattled bare trees like skeletons and whipped up the dark clouds in an iron gray sky. The approaching snow storm probably would not be the last one of the winter.

The red fox couldn't have chosen a worse time to bring a litter of kits¹ into the world. Nestled in a small hollow beneath a hickory tree, curled against their mother's plush fur, the three young kits were warm and comfortable. But when the freezing storms came, the shallow nest would surely let in the snow. And it would be too easy for predators to find the babies when their mother left them to search for food. The fox knew she would have to seek a new home, and soon.

She nuzzled her kits, whose eyes were not yet open. She licked them, and they mewed about her like kittens. Then she left them. Outside her den, cold air stung her nose as she sniffed about for danger. Then she padded off into the gray, wintry forest.

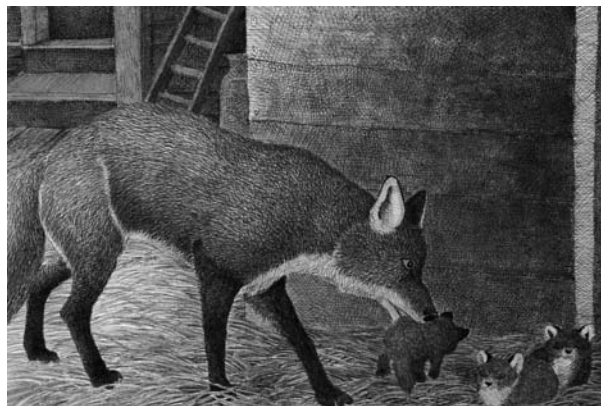
She ducked beneath a wooden fence and followed a path across a familiar field, where during the summer she'd chased rabbits. She was near a farm, a place she'd always avoided because of the fearful smell of humans. But now, the warmth and protection of the barn drew her close.

Squeezing through the gap where a board was missing, she sneaked into the barn. The straw was deep and soft, a perfect bed for fox kits.

¹ kits: young animals, such as kittens or baby foxes



The red fox hurried back to her babies. One by one she carried them under the fence, across the field, and through the hole in the barn wall. And when all three kits were snuggled down in the blanket of straw, she licked them and felt safe. Even when the farmer came to milk his cows, the silent fox knew her family would be unnoticed, hidden in the farthest and darkest corner of the barn.



One snowy evening, the farmer turned off his lantern and hung it on the wall as he left the barn, just as he did every night. But as he closed the door, the lantern slipped from its hook and shattered on the floor. A tiny spark danced across the pool of kerosene² and nibbled at the scattered straw.

The fox watched with wide, yellow eyes as the straw curled and caught flame. Wisps of smoke reached her nostrils, and she became fearful. Slipping through the hole in the wall, she ran outside and howled. Her voice carried across the barnyard, and the farmer turned around. He was surprised and angry to see a fox. He was even more angry to see it run into his barn.



Setting down his milk pail, the farmer headed back to his barn, determined to chase away the unwelcome visitor. But when he threw open the barn door, fire danced about his feet. Grabbing a shovel, he beat the flames until they were out. Once again, the barn was safe and dark.

² **kerosene**: a thin oil used for fuel



Taking up a flashlight, the farmer shone its beam about the barn. It finally came to rest on the fox, her family nestled close, her eyes shining gold. The farmer smiled. He flicked off the light and walked away, quietly closing the barn door behind him.

Winter's harshness gave way to spring's gentle warmth. One day the farmer glanced into the darkest corner of the barn and found it empty. But for a time it had been a place to feel safe. It had been home to a red fox family.



"The Red Fox" reprinted by permission of SPIDER magazine, March 1995, Vol. 12, No. 3, © 1995 by Donna Stringfellow, art copyright © 1995 by Sylvia Long-Spain and reprinted by permission.



Now answer Numbers 1 through 8. Base your answers on the story “The Red Fox.”

1 Which words from the story have almost the same meaning?

- Ⓐ carried, hurried
- Ⓑ curled, snuggled
- Ⓒ found, followed
- Ⓓ sniffed, nibbled

2 What did the farmer do RIGHT AFTER he put out the fire?

- Ⓕ He chased the kits away.
- Ⓖ He opened up the barn door.
- Ⓗ He looked around for the fox.
- Ⓘ He hung the lantern on the wall.

3 Why are the fox kits compared to kittens in the story?

- Ⓐ They live in a shallow nest.
- Ⓑ They are afraid of humans.
- Ⓒ They sleep in a soft blanket of straw at night.
- Ⓓ They make a soft sound when they are licked.



4

In the story, both the fox and the farmer help each other. Use details and information from the story to explain how they help each other.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

5

It was hard to see the kits in the barn because

- Ⓕ they stayed in a dark corner.
- Ⓖ the farmer's lantern was out.
- Ⓗ they hid behind the mother fox.
- Ⓘ the farmer's flashlight was broken.



6

In the story, the fox had two homes. Tell how the two homes were DIFFERENT. Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

7

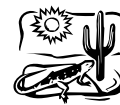
Why did the mother fox usually stay away from the farm?

- (A) She was afraid of people.
- (B) She did not like the cows.
- (C) She was afraid to go under the fence.
- (D) She did not like the smell of kerosene.

8

Why did the farmer smile when he saw the fox and her kits in his barn?

- (F) The farmer thought the kits looked funny.
- (G) The farmer was glad to have the kits as pets.
- (H) The farmer understood why the fox had howled.
- (I) The farmer knew the fox would protect his cows.



Read the story “Living on the Edge of Danger” before answering Numbers 9 through 16.

LIVING ON THE EDGE OF DANGER

By Jack Myers
Senior Science Editor

**The silver
ant survives
in heat that
would kill
other ants.**

Ants probably aren't your favorite insects. But you can't help being interested in the story of one spunky kind of ant. It has some special tricks for living in the hot, dry sands of the Sahara, in Africa. This desert is one of the most difficult places on Earth for animals to live.

Most desert animals have learned how to beat the heat by burrowing and living underground during the hottest part of the day. They come out to hunt for food at night and in the

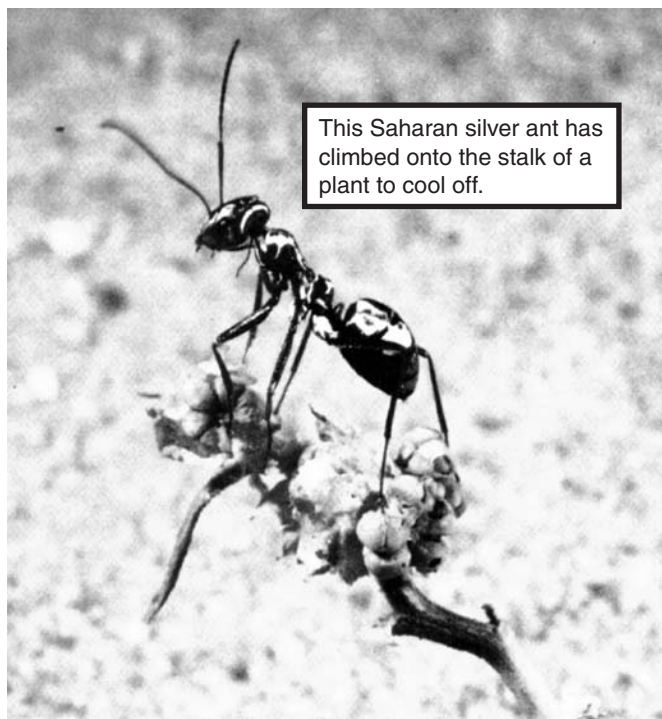
early morning. Of course those animals include the predators, which come out at the same time to hunt. So ants and other small insects searching for their food are in danger of becoming food for larger animals, especially the desert lizards.

Head for Home

As the morning sun rises, the sands heat up rapidly, and almost every creature scurries back to its burrow.¹ Those that are still hungry and keep looking for food risk the danger of dying of heat shock before they get home.

Most desert ants and other insects head for home when the temperature gets up to about 95 degrees Fahrenheit. They must sneak past the ant lizards and win the race against rising temperature to get home safely. By the time the temperature gets to about 113 degrees, most ants are safe in their underground nests—except for one special kind, the Saharan silver ant.

The silver ant stays out in higher temperatures than any other desert ant does. In fact, it feeds on insects that died in the heat. How does it survive? And why does it do it?



This Saharan silver ant has climbed onto the stalk of a plant to cool off.

¹ burrow: underground home



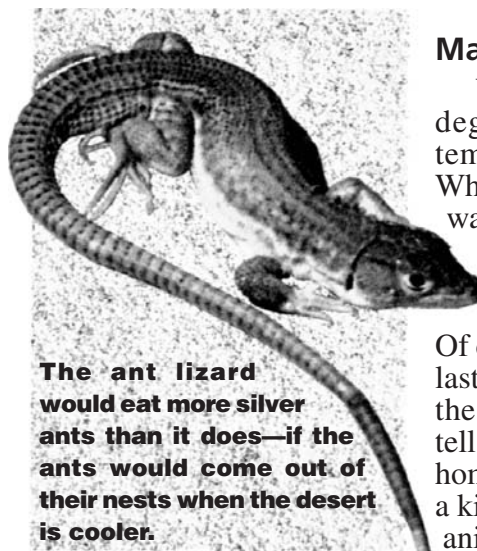
Cool Tricks

One trick of the silver ant is that it can withstand higher temperatures—no one knows how—even up to 128 degrees.

And it knows how to find places where it can rest and cool off. Down on the surface of the sand, where the ant lives, is the hottest place around. Just a few inches up above the sand the air is a lot cooler. So the silver ant spends a part of its hunting time climbing up on plants, like the one in the photograph on the previous page.

Silver ants have another trick that is even more surprising. Their whole colony stays in the nest until the sand temperature outside gets to about 116 degrees. Then a few scouts give a signal, and hundreds of ants come pouring out. This usually happens about noontime, when the temperature is rising rapidly.

Silver ants have a busy time of it, hunting and climbing up on grass stalks to cool off. Then they must hurry home again before the temperature gets to 128 degrees. That gives them just a short hunting time



The ant lizard would eat more silver ants than it does—if the ants would come out of their nests when the desert is cooler.

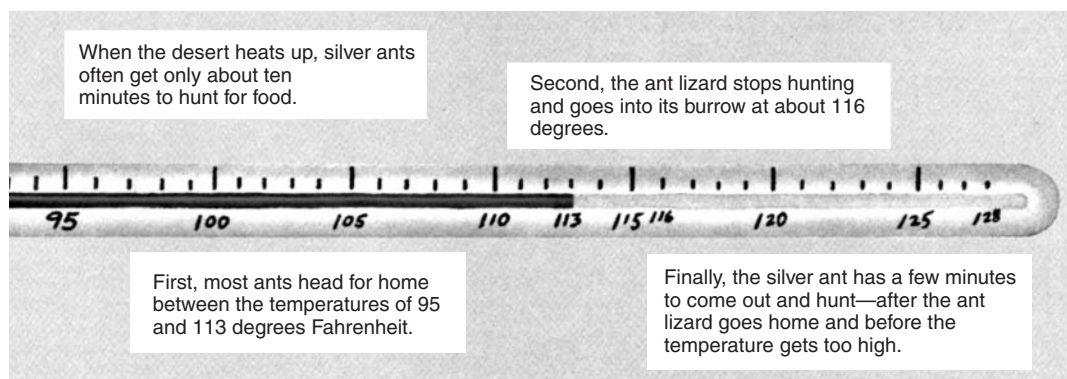
outside their nest, often only about ten minutes.

Naturally you have to wonder why the silver ants don't come out of their nest until the temperature gets so high. Scientists who studied them wondered, too. They found an answer in the behavior of the ant lizard. It is especially fond of silver ants and often has its burrow close to one of their nests. But the ant lizard has to worry about getting overheated, too. By the time the temperature gets to 116 degrees, all the ant lizards are back in their burrows.

Magic Temperature

You can see why 116 degrees becomes a magic temperature for silver ants. When the desert sand gets that warm, one of their enemies, the ant lizard, is asleep in its burrow. Then the ants can safely go out hunting. Of course their safety doesn't last long. Their other enemy, the rising temperature, will tell them they must start for home before the sand gets to a killing temperature. Lots of animals have special times of day or night when they do their hunting and searching for food. But there can't be very many that have as short a hunting time as the Saharan silver ant.

Many animals live very close to danger, especially those that live in the icy cold of the Arctic or in the hot, dry sands of the desert. Even so, the silver ant may hold some kind of record for living on the edge of danger.



"Living on the Edge of Danger" by Jack Myers, November 1995, copyright © 1995 by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.



Now answer Numbers 9 through 16. Base your answers on the story “Living on the Edge of Danger.”

- 9 Read these sentences.

Most desert animals...come out to hunt for food at night and in the early morning. Of course those animals include the predators, which come out at the same time to hunt.

What does the word *predators* mean?

- (A) animals that eat plants
- (B) animals that dig burrows
- (C) animals that hide from insects
- (D) animals that feed on other animals

- 10 The article says that silver ants are “living on the edge of danger” because they

- (F) live near the desert’s border.
- (G) live in an underground burrow.
- (H) have only a short time to cool off.
- (I) have only a short time to find food.

- 11 How are silver ants different from other desert ants?

- (A) They hunt in hotter weather.
- (B) They can die in the desert heat.
- (C) They are hunted by ant lizards.
- (D) They nest in underground burrows.



12

What do the ant lizards and silver ants of the Sahara Desert do when the sand temperature reaches 116 degrees? Be sure to include details and information from the article.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

13

Why is the night a dangerous time for the silver ant to hunt?

- (F) It is too dark to see enemies.
- (G) It is too cold to move around.
- (H) There are too many other ants hunting for food.
- (I) There are too many ant lizards hunting for food.

14

Which of these is an enemy of BOTH the silver ant and the ant lizard?

- (A) other ants
- (B) the desert's heat
- (C) research scientists
- (D) the night's darkness

15

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

- each step of the silver ants' hunt, and
- the reasons why silver ants hunt the way they do

[illegible]



16 Why did the author write “Living on the Edge of Danger”?

- Ⓕ to alert people that deserts are dangerous places
- Ⓖ to compare the many ways African animals hunt
- Ⓗ to convince students that ants are smart creatures
- Ⓘ to describe the different habits of a Saharan insect



This is the end of the Reading Sample Test.
Until time is called, go back and check your answers or answer questions you
did not complete. When you have finished, close your Sample Test Book.

Notes

Notes



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