



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2007**

**Grade 5  
Reading**

# Reading

- ① Which sentence uses the word plot to mean “a secret plan”?
- A. The police discovered the plot to rob the bank.
  - B. The plot of the story led the main character to many cities.
  - C. The gardener divided the plot between vegetables and flowers.
  - D. The couple bought a plot large enough for a house and garage.
- ② The words subway and submarine have a prefix (beginning) that means
- A. under.
  - B. with.
  - C. next to.
  - D. in between.

Read this article about butterflies and then answer the questions that follow.

## Butterfly Puddles

by Cindy Blobaum

**Give butterflies a place to find minerals they need. Then sit back and enjoy the show!**

Most kinds of butterflies get the liquid they need from flower nectar, so why do they sometimes swarm around damp spots? Perhaps you've seen butterflies clustered around a damp spot on a dirt path or road. Those butterflies aren't thirsty. They are puddling. Butterflies "puddle" when they are in search of minerals they need to be healthy, such as sodium and nitrogen.

- 2** Since butterflies use their tongues to extract minerals from damp soil or sand, why not create a puddling place for them in your garden or yard?

Follow the directions to create a butterfly puddle. Then enjoy watching the butterflies it attracts!

### What you'll need:

- a shallow dish (such as a saucer from a plant pot, or a pie pan)
- rich soil (such as topsoil)
- sponges
- scissors
- flat rocks (some light-colored and some dark-colored)

### What to do:

1. Spread a thin layer of soil in the bottom of the dish.
2. Arrange the rocks in the dish.
3. Cut the sponges into shapes, then place them between the rocks.
4. Wet the sponges so that some water seeps into the soil below, but not so much that there is standing water.
5. Place your butterfly puddle in a sunny area near flowers. Try to keep it out of the wind, and make sure it stays moist.

### Perfect Landing Spots

Butterflies use their surroundings to regulate their body temperatures. Dark-colored rocks hold heat, while light-colored rocks reflect it. If you use both light- and dark-colored rocks, the butterflies can choose which one is the right temperature for them.

### Smooth Landings



Petunias, sunflowers, zinnias, and other large, flat-headed flowers are butterfly favorites. They are easy to land on and provide lots of nectar.



Butterflies also enjoy butterfly bushes, milkweed, and marigolds.



- 3 Butterflies seek puddles because they need
- A. water to drink.
  - B. minerals to eat.
  - C. to cool themselves down.
  - D. to rest on damp soil.

- 4 In paragraph 2, the word extract means to
- A. take out.
  - B. put back.
  - C. make up.
  - D. turn down.

- 5 Why should the flat rocks be both light- and dark-colored?
- A. to make the puddles beautiful to look at
  - B. to make the puddles blend with the flowers
  - C. to give butterflies places to hide from enemies
  - D. to give butterflies different temperature choices

- 6 What do the pictures under the article show?
- A. the reasons butterflies like petunias best
  - B. the shapes of flowers butterflies like best
  - C. the sizes of marigolds butterflies try to avoid
  - D. the height of sunflowers butterflies need

- 7 Explain how the information in this article is organized to make the directions easier to follow. Use details from the article to support your answer.

*Read these poems about insects and then answer the questions that follow.*

### **A Dragon-Fly**

When the heat of the summer  
Made drowsy the land,  
A dragon-fly came  
And sat on my hand,  
5 With its blue jointed body,  
And wings like spun glass,  
It lit on my fingers  
As though they were grass.

*—Eleanor Farjeon*

### **Little Talk**

Don't you think it's probable  
that beetles, bugs, and bees  
talk about a lot of things—  
you know, such things as these:

5 The kind of weather where they live  
in jungles tall with grass  
and earthquakes in their villages  
whenever people pass!

10 Of course, we'll never know if bugs  
talk very much at all,  
because our ears are far too big  
for talk that is so small.

*—Aileen Fisher*

- 8 In line 2 of “A Dragon-Fly,” the word drowsy means
- A. noisy.
  - B. cloudy.
  - C. buggy.
  - D. sleepy.

- 9 What do lines 5 and 6 of “A Dragon-Fly” describe?
- A. the movement of the dragonfly
  - B. the way the dragonfly looks
  - C. the movement of the speaker’s hand
  - D. the way the speaker acts in summer

- 10 In “Little Talk,” what is the **most likely** reason the speaker says “Don’t you think”?
- A. to help the reader learn about bugs’ lives
  - B. to help the reader imagine what bugs might say
  - C. to tell the reader what the speaker likes about bugs
  - D. to tell the reader what the speaker thinks about bugs

- 11 In “Little Talk,” why are people unable to hear bugs?
- A. People are too large.
  - B. People are not listening.
  - C. The jungle is too noisy.
  - D. The bugs speak too fast.

- 12 How do the speakers feel about the insects in the two poems? Explain your answer by using details from **both** poems.

# Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program—2007*.

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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
<b>Content Strand<sup>1</sup></b>	WV	WV	II	WV	II	II	II	WV	LI	LA	LA	LA
<b>GLE Code</b>	4-3	4-2	4-7	4-2	4-7	4-7	4-7	4-3	4-4	4-5	4-5	4-5
<b>Depth of Knowledge Code</b>	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	2	3
<b>Item Type<sup>2</sup></b>	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
<b>Answer Key</b>	A	A	B	A	D	B		D	B	B	A	
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

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

<sup>2</sup>Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, SA = Short Answer, CR = Constructed Response