



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2010**

**Grade 5
Writing**

Writing

- 1 Which word in the sentence below should be capitalized?

“please fasten your seat belts,” the pilot told the passengers.

- A. please
- B. seat
- C. pilot
- D. passengers

- 2 Where should a comma be added to the sentence below?

Marty planned to do his school report about lions tigers, or bears.

- A. after *planned*
- B. after *school*
- C. after *report*
- D. after *lions*

- 3 Which of the following is a complete sentence?

- A. Stayed up late last night reading a book.
- B. Story hour at the library on Saturday mornings.
- C. An interesting book to read for a book report.
- D. I read my favorite book over and over.

- 4 How should the underlined words in the sentence below be written?

“The camping trip was fun for my family and I,” Marcy said.

- A. they and my family
- B. my family and me
- C. I and my family
- D. them and my family

- 5 Which spelling change should be made in the sentence below?

My regular day starts at sunrise when I wake up and finaly ends twelve hours later.

- A. Change *regular* to **reguler**.
 - B. Change *sunrise* to **sunrize**.
 - C. Change *finaly* to **finally**.
 - D. Change *later* to **latter**.
- 6 Which sentence has a punctuation error at the end?
- A. I like the buzzing sound that bees make.
 - B. I think that is a yellow jacket, not a bee.
 - C. Watch out for the bee flying around your head!
 - D. The bee is very big and buzzes loudly?

- 7 What is the **best** way to combine the sentences below?

People enjoyed the play. People clapped for the actors at the end.

- A. People enjoyed the play and clapped for the actors at the end.
 - B. People enjoyed the play, people clapped for the actors at the end.
 - C. People enjoyed the play or clapped for the actors at the end.
 - D. People enjoyed the play, but people clapped for the actors at the end.
- 8 Which word in the sentences below should be capitalized?

My friend and I played a computer game with my brothers. we won!

- A. computer
- B. game
- C. brothers
- D. we

- 9 Where should a comma be added to the sentence below?

I turned five on September 4 2003, the same day school started.

- A. after *I*
- B. after *five*
- C. after *4*
- D. after *day*

- 10 What is the **best** way to combine the sentences below?

The children ran across the beach. The children jumped into the water.

- A. The children ran across the beach, jumped into the water.
- B. The children ran across the beach but jumped into the water.
- C. The children ran across the beach and jumped into the water.
- D. The children ran across the beach, and the children jumped into the water.

When writing responses to prompts 11, 12, and 13, remember to

- **read the prompt carefully,**
- **develop a complete response to the prompt, and**
- **proofread and edit your writing.**

Narrative

- ⑪ Think about your least favorite food. Write a paragraph that describes a character who is trying that food for the first time.

Response to Literary Text

As you read this poem about the sun, think about how the speaker feels about snow. Then write a response to the prompt that follows.

Sunflakes

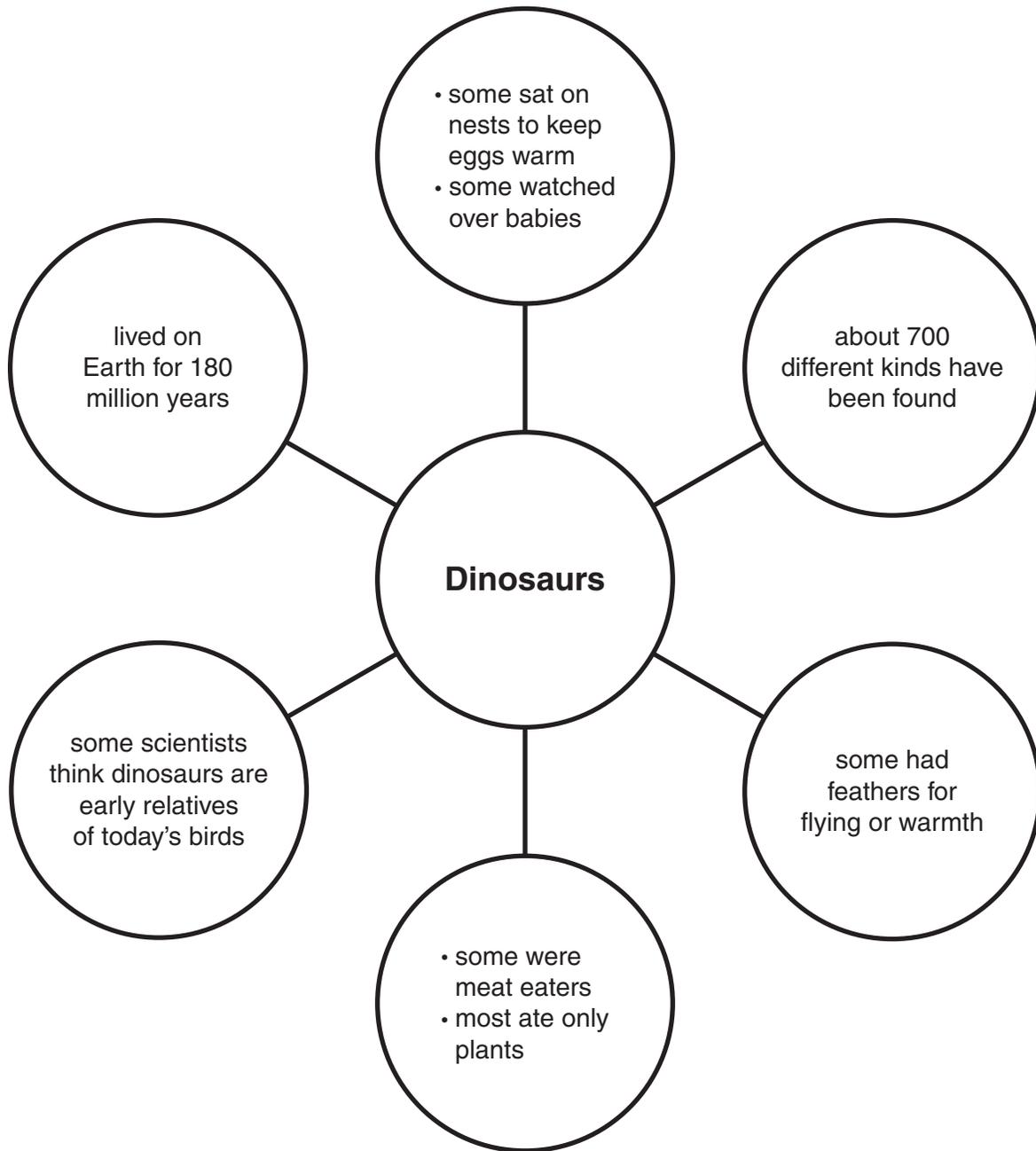
If sunlight fell like snowflakes,
gleaming yellow and so bright,
we could build a sunman,
we could have a sunball fight,
we could watch the sunflakes
drifting in the sky.
We could go sleighing
in the middle of July
through sundrifts and sunbanks,
we could ride a sunmobile,
and we could touch sunflakes—
I wonder how they'd feel.

—*Frank Asch*

- 12 How do you think the speaker in the poem feels about snow? Write a paragraph using details from the poem to support your response.

Report

A student made this organizer about dinosaurs. Read the information in the organizer and think about what is known about dinosaurs. Then write a response to the prompt that follows.



- 13 Write a paragraph that explains what is known about dinosaurs. Choose information from the organizer to support the main idea of your paragraph.

Response to Informational Text

As you read this article about Paul Nicklen, a wildlife photographer from the Arctic, think about whether you would like his job. Then write a response to the prompt that follows.

Wildlife Photographer

by Gerry Bishop

Am I going to get caught in a blizzard or drift out to sea on a chunk of ice? Most people would never have such thoughts when they get up and go to work each day. But Paul Nicklen often does.

Paul is a wildlife photographer. And to get his photos, he travels to some of the coldest, wildest, and most dangerous places on Earth. Sometimes he spends weeks just waiting for the perfect shot. But then he could suddenly be face to face with a threatening polar bear. Or he could fall through the ice. Or maybe get lost in a blinding snowstorm. Or . . . well, you get the idea.

These risks haven't stopped Paul yet. That's because he's a man with a mission. He says, "I hope my photos will inspire others to care about the wild places and creatures I care so much about."

Growing Up in the Wild

When Paul was just three, his family moved to a tiny village in the Arctic. His new Inuit (IN-oo-it) friends there taught him the ways of the Arctic—and how to survive in such a place.

"I saw my first polar bear when I was only five years old," says Paul. And by the age of eight, he and his friends were exploring the icy wilderness. They built sleds and loaded them with supplies. Then they crossed the frozen landscape on hunting expeditions. "Sometimes we even camped overnight," Paul adds.

Paul began to discover the beauty of the Arctic. He and his friends had no TV, radio, or computers. "Instead," he explains, "we wandered the hills, watching the sun and clouds play 'shadow games' across the land." Paul paid special attention to colors, shapes, and light. He didn't know it then, but he was already developing the "eye" needed to take excellent photos.

Getting the Picture

Paul studied biology in college. Afterward, he got a job working with some of his favorite creatures, such as lynxes and bears. But what he really wanted to do was photograph wildlife.

“I finally got a big break when *National Geographic* magazine let me do a photo story about salmon,” remembers Paul. The story was such a success that the magazine gave him another assignment—and then another and another.

Now, Paul is one of the world’s top nature photographers. And, best of all, he says, “I’m doing the wildlife work I love most.”

- 14 Would you like to have Paul Nicklen’s job? Use details from the article to support your response.

A complete response to the text includes

- a focus/controlling idea
- clear organization
- supporting details from the text
- well-chosen words

Be sure to proofread and edit your writing.

Acknowledgments

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“Wildlife Photographer” (pp. 8–9) by Gerry Bishop, as it appeared in *Ranger Rick* (January 2009). Copyright © 2008 by National Wildlife Federation. Published by National Wildlife Federation.