

Arizona's Instrument to Measure
Standards
(AIMS)

Sample Test
Grade 4



Arizona Department of Education
Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Assessment Section
602-542-5031

Revised March, 2006

The reading passages, test items, and scoring guides in this publication are representative only and should not be interpreted as exact duplicates of the passages and items that may appear on AIMS tests, nor the scoring guides used to score them. Authority for final approval of all test items and testing materials rests with the Arizona Department of Education.

The Arizona Department of Education of the State of Arizona does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or in its hiring and employment practices. If you have questions or grievances related to this policy, please contact the Administrative Services DAS at (602) 542-3186.

The contents of this publication were developed partially with funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Education. These contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the agency, nor should endorsement by the federal government be assumed. Arizona Department of Education grants permission to Arizona schools to copy this publication as necessary for educational purposes.

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Reading Test	1
Reading Test Answer Key	15
Writing Test	16

READING

DIRECTIONS: Read this letter and then answer questions 1 through 6.

7890 E. First Street
Douglas, Arizona 85607
February 24, 2005

Ms. Arlene Yamamoto, Director
International Parks and Zoos Information Center
5225 N. 34th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85000



Most aardvarks live in the savannas of Africa south of the Sahara desert, but some make their homes in the rain forests.

Dear Ms. Yamamoto:

Recently my fourth grade class had a guest speaker from South Africa talk to us about an incredible animal called an aardvark. My classmates and I learned many interesting facts about the aardvark which will help us write our animal reports.

There are many unbelievable things about the aardvark. The most amazing is the length of its tongue. It can be as long as 30 centimeters! The aardvark's body is also unusual. Its head has a long nose and rabbit-like ears. The largest part of the body looks like a bear, and its webbed feet have sharp claws. It can dig down into the ground to create a shelter in minutes because it is very strong. The aardvark is a very shy animal. However, when a more aggressive animal attacks, the aardvark will defend itself with its front claws. Sometimes it will lie on its back and fight with all four claws.

Another name for the aardvark is "anteater". This is because it eats ants and termites. The long tongue can reach into the passage of an anthill and get its food. It is because of its diet that I am writing this letter. If I owned an aardvark, I could keep it well fed and it could get rid of the ant problem in my back yard. Do you know where I could get one? I look forward to your reply.

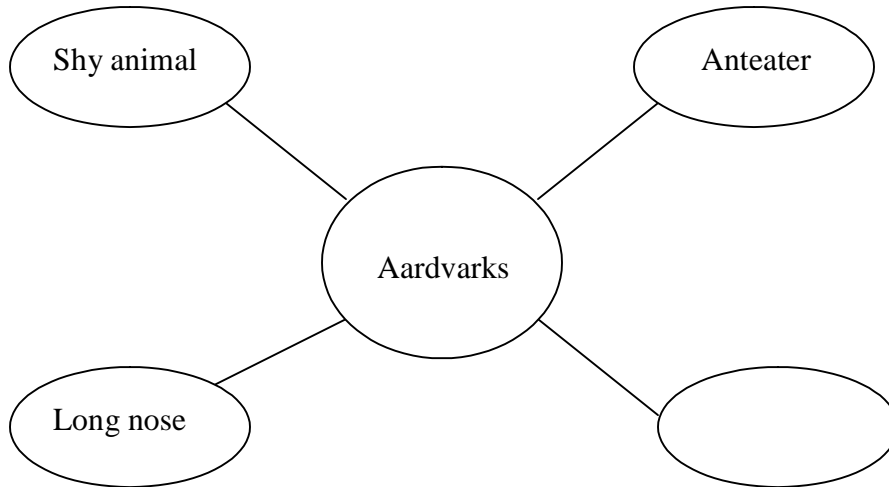
Sincerely,

Mike Wingle

Mike Wingle

AIMS Sample Test - Reading
Grade 4

1 Look at the web.



Which of these statements belongs in the web?

- A short tongue
 - B aggressive
 - C dull claws
 - D termite eater
- 2 Which of these books would be **best** to find more information about aardvarks?

- A *Ants and Termites*
- B *Animals Attack*
- C *A is for Anteaters*
- D *Termites in Africa*

- 3 Mike wrote the letter to Ms. Yamamoto to –
- A find out where to get an aardvark.
 - B warn her about how aardvarks attack.
 - C explain how an aardvark’s claws dig.
 - D tell her what an aardvark’s tongue is like.
- 4 What is the main idea of the second paragraph of Mike’s letter?
- A Why are aardvarks’ ears so big?
 - B How do aardvarks use their claws?
 - C How does an aardvark build a home?
 - D What are some interesting aardvark facts?
- 5 According to the letter, what causes the aardvark to lie on its back?
- A It is defending itself.
 - B It is very tired.
 - C It is making shelter.
 - D It is finding food.

6 The map below shows some of the countries in Africa where aardvarks live.



In which of the following countries would an aardvark **most** likely make its home?

- A Egypt
- B Libya
- C Gabon
- D Kenya

DIRECTIONS: Read this passage and then answer questions 7 through 14.

The Gift

“Happy Birthday!” Nathan awoke to the voice of his mother. “It’s time to get up and drive out to your grandfather’s ranch.”

“Why do we have to go there? And how long is the drive anyway?” he asked with a dismal look in his eyes.

“About two hours.....and don’t worry, we’ll bring your birthday presents with us.” His mother walked out of his room and left him to get ready.

In less than an hour, the car was loaded and Nathan, his mother, and his father were on their way. Thoughts of what the colorful, birthday packages had inside filled his head. He was certain that one had the baseball glove he wanted, while others would contain wondrous things that he had only dreamed about. His attention shifted to the passing trees, and he tried to remember the last time that he had seen his grandfather. His thoughts returned to his gifts, and he wondered what his birthday present from his grandfather might be.

“We’re here,” his mother said, breaking him from his thoughts.

As the car slowed and turned, Nathan looked down the dirt road that led to his grandfather’s ranch. “Since my grandfather has a ranch, then he must have a lot of money, and the bigger his present for me will be,” Nathan whispered to himself.

Finally, they arrived at a huge ranch house. There was a stable with a large corral to the right of the house. In the corral, three horses galloped over to the fence as

fast as lightning. Grandfather appeared in the doorway of the house and waved at Nathan and his mother to come inside. With arms full of presents, Nathan and his mother entered the house.

“Put those packages down and come over here and give your grandpa a hug.” His grandfather motioned with his hand where to place the gifts. Plopping them down on the hall table, Nathan ran to the outstretched arms.

Hugging his grandfather, he excitedly exclaimed, “I’ve missed you! You know, today’s my birthday. Did you get me a present?”

“I have missed you, too. Yes, I know it’s your birthday, and I have a very special present for you that I would like you to open first.”

He went over to the fireplace and took a small box off the mantle. Placing the box in Nathan’s hand, he quietly said, “This is a very important gift. I hope you will treasure it as much as I have.”

Nathan looked at the small box, thinking money or jewels might be inside....but what did his grandfather mean, “treasure it as much as I have”? Opening the box, Nathan was surprised to see only a stone. It was a very beautiful, polished stone, but was it valuable?

Grandfather spoke more slowly than before, “Nathan, when your grandma and I were first married, we had very little money.

AIMS Sample Test - Reading
Grade 4

She wanted to give me something special for my birthday, so she found this beautiful rock

and polished it day and night until it shined. It was the greatest gift I ever received because it came from your grandma's heart.

Now, I want you to have it because it comes from my heart."

Nathan held the stone in his hand and felt the love of his grandfather. "This is a wonderful gift....thank you, Grandfather." As Nathan hugged him, he knew he had received the best gift ever.

7 Read this phrase from the passage.

galloped over to the fence as fast as lightning

This phrase is an example of –

- A simile
- B idiom
- C metaphor
- D personification

8 How did Nathan feel after his Grandfather explained the gift?

- A He was sorry it was such a small present.
- B He wished he had another present.
- C He thought it was a very special present.
- D He was disappointed with his present.

9 Who is the main character in "The Gift"?

- A Mother
- B Nathan
- C Father
- D Grandma

10 "The Gift" is an example of –

- A short story
- B drama
- C poetry
- D autobiography

11 When does "The Gift" take place?

- A on Grandpa's birthday
- B on Nathan's birthday
- C when Grandpa got married
- D when Nathan was riding a horse

- 12 Which lesson can be learned from “The Gift”?
- A People should get a lot of birthday gifts.
 - B It is sad to visit relatives.
 - C All polished stones are valuable.
 - D The best birthday gifts don’t have to be expensive.

- 13 Read the following sentence from the passage.

“Since my grandfather has a ranch, then he must have a lot of money, and the bigger his present for me will be,” Nathan whispered to himself.

This shows that Nathan is--

- A tired
 - B greedy
 - C thoughtful
 - D noisy
- 14 Who is telling “The Gift”?
- A Nathan
 - B Grandfather
 - C Mother
 - D Narrator

DIRECTIONS: Read this passage and then answer questions 15 through 21.

Kids in the Kitchen

Before making anything in the kitchen, some rules must be observed. By following these simple rules, you will have success and probably be invited back to prepare another treat.

Rules for the Kitchen:

- Always ask an adult if you can use the kitchen.
- Make sure you have all the needed items before you start.
- Wash your hands before you touch food.
- Wear an apron or towel to keep your clothes clean.
- Always clean up when you are finished.

Worms in Dirt

Needed Items:

- 1 16-ounce package of cream-filled cookies
- 2 cups of cold milk
- 1 small package of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 8-ounce tub of whipped topping (softened)
- 1 package of gummy worms
- 1 sealable plastic bag
- 1 rolling pin
- 1 large bowl
- 1 large spoon
- 8 individual serving cups

Directions:

1. Crush cookies in the sealed plastic bag with the rolling pin.
2. Pour cold milk into the large bowl.
3. Add pudding mix and beat with large spoon for two minutes.
4. Let mixture stand for five minutes.
5. Stir in whipped topping and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the crushed cookies.
6. Place about 1 large spoonful of crushed cookies into each cup.
7. Fill cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with pudding mixture.
8. Top each cup with the remaining crushed cookies.
9. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
10. Arrange gummy worms on top just before serving.

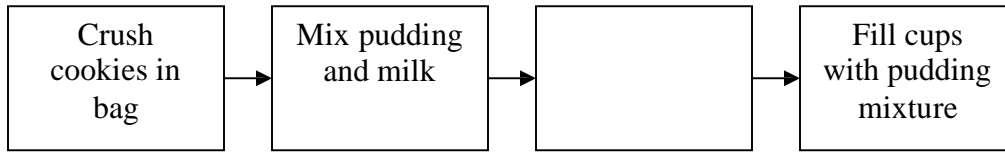
Serves: 8 people

AIMS Sample Test - Reading
Grade 4

- 15 If you wanted to make Worms in Dirt, which list would you **most likely** take to the store?
- A Serves
 - B Directions
 - C Needed Items
 - D Rules for the Kitchen
- 16 Adding re- to the word seal makes a word that means –
- A seal again
 - B seal before
 - C always seal
 - D not seal
- 17 If you wanted to find information on real worms, what would be the **best** resource to use?
- A encyclopedia
 - B thesaurus
 - C atlas
 - D almanac
- 18 What is the purpose of the rolling pin in this passage?
- A to fill the cups
 - B to mix the pudding
 - C to crush the cookies
 - D to stir the whipped topping

AIMS Sample Test - Reading
Grade 4

- 19 Look at the chart of the steps to make Worms in Dirt.



Which step belongs in the empty box?

- A Arrange gummy worms on top
 - B Refrigerate until ready to serve
 - C Put crushed cookies on top
 - D Stir in whipped topping and cookies
- 20 According to the passage, what should you do just before serving your Worms in Dirt?
- A Clean up when you are finished.
 - B Arrange gummy worms on top.
 - C Refrigerate until ready to serve.
 - D Ask an adult if you can use the kitchen.
- 21 The author wrote “Kids in the Kitchen” to tell –
- A what worms do to pudding
 - B how to make a fun treat
 - C how good whipped topping is
 - D what a mess you can make

DIRECTIONS: Read this poem and then answer questions 22 through 23.

Cookies

Chocolate chip cookies
Fresh from the oven today
Can't wait to eat one

5 Goopy chocolate mess
Sticky Brown Swirls and soft crumbs
On my face and hands

Sweet chocolate cookie
So crispy on the outside
So chewy within

10 Chocolate chip cookies
Warm, delicious and messy
I'll have another.

22 The imagery in the poem "Cookies" makes the reader want to –

- A eat chocolate chip cookies
- B bake peanut butter cookies
- C sell chocolate chip cookies
- D buy peanut butter cookies

23 How many stanzas are in the poem "Cookies"?

- A 12
- B 10
- C 4
- D 1

DIRECTIONS: Read this letter and then answer questions 24 through 28.

December 18, 2004

Dear Principal Sandoval,

The fourth graders have a problem with the playground at school. I have talked with every student in the fourth grade classrooms about this matter. All of us want to have some new things to play on. Last year when we played on the primary playground, we had swings, slides, and monkey bars. Now all we have is a soccer field and a basketball court. Only a few kids even use these areas. Most of us just wander around being bored. Some of the kids even get into trouble because there is nothing to do.

Part of the soccer field should be used to put in the new equipment. This area should also be covered. If we had this, we would have fun and those kids who cause problems would probably behave better, too. The fourth graders deserve this because we will be at this school for another two years and we can't survive that long without better equipment.

If you would like to talk more about this, the fourth graders have lunch at 11:40 in the cafeteria. We would all be there to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Moore

Lyndsey Moore

- 24 Which of these phrases is an exaggeration?
- A part of the soccer field should be used
 - B we can't survive that long
 - C some kids even get into trouble
 - D had swings, slides, and monkey bars

- 25 Which of the sentences from the passage is an opinion?
- A This area should also be covered.
 - B The fourth graders have lunch at 11:40 in the cafeteria.
 - C Now all we have is a soccer field and a basketball court.
 - D The fourth graders have a problem with the playground at school.

AIMS Sample Test - Reading
Grade 4

- 26 Why did Lyndsey write this letter?
- A to inform the fourth graders about basketball
 - B to describe the school lunch program
 - C to persuade the principal to get new equipment
 - D to entertain the reader with a story about monkey bars
- 27 Lyndsey believes that the fourth graders –
- A need a new soccer field
 - B want a bigger basketball court
 - C need an earlier lunch time
 - D want a nicer playground
- 28 According to this letter, Lyndsey believes that if the fourth graders have new playground equipment they will –
- A have fun
 - B be bored
 - C be sincere
 - D have problems



AIMS Sample Test – Reading Answer Key
Grade 4

Item Number	Correct Answer	Performance Objective
1	D	1-6-4
2	C	1-6-5
3	A	1-6-6
4	D	3-1-1
5	A	3-1-8
6	D	3-1-6
7	A	1-4-4
8	C	2-1-2
9	B	2-1-4
10	A	2-1-10
11	B	2-1-7
12	D	2-1-3
13	B	2-1-5
14	D	2-1-6
15	C	3-2-1
16	A	1-4-1
17	A	3-1-5
18	C	3-2-2
19	D	1-6-4
20	B	3-2-1
21	B	3-1-3
22	A	2-1-5
23	C	2-1-9
24	B	3-3-2
25	A	3-1-2
26	C	3-1-3
27	D	3-3-1
28	A	3-3-1

WRITING

AIMS Sample Test – Writing
Grade 4

Writing

DIRECTIONS:

Read the writing prompt below. Use the next page for your prewriting/planning.
Then write your draft.

We all have things that we believe are exciting. Think of something you have done that was exciting to you. It might be winning a ball game, getting a new pet, or riding a bike.

Write a story about a time when you felt excited.

Your writing should:

- Have a beginning, middle, and end.
- Describe the exciting experience.
- Include details about the experience.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Sample Test – Writing
Grade 4

Writing _____

DIRECTIONS:

Use the prewriting/planning space below for notes, lists, webs, outlines, or anything else that might help you plan your writing.

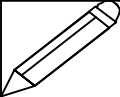
Prewriting/Planning

Writing

FINAL COPY

DIRECTIONS:

Now you are going to revise your draft. Read your draft. Then use the questions in the Writer's Checklist as a guide to make changes to your draft. Check each box if you can answer "yes" to that question.

 **WRITER'S CHECKLIST**

Are my ideas clear?

Does my writing have words that make it interesting?

Does my writing have a clear beginning, middle, and ending?

Does my writing sound right and make sense?

Did I edit for capital letters?

Did I edit for correct punctuation?

Did I edit for correct spelling?

If you left any box in the checklist blank, think about ways to make your writing better.

DIRECTIONS:

For each box you did not check, make the change on your draft. Then write your final copy on the following pages.

