



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2012**

**Grade 8
Writing**

Writing

- 1 Which word is **misspelled** in the sentence below?

At the beginning of the school year, I definitely make a special effort to be sure all of my assignments are completed on time.

- A. definitely
 - B. special
 - C. assignments
 - D. completed
- 2 Which edit should be made to the sentence below?

One of the students are going to tell the members what they will need to prepare for their next meeting.

- A. Change *are* to **is**.
- B. Change *they* to **them**.
- C. Change *will need* to **needed**.
- D. Change *their* to **its**.

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

Eduardo tripped over a cat. The cat was chasing a butterfly.

- A. Eduardo tripped over a cat when chasing a butterfly.
- B. Eduardo tripped over a cat that was chasing a butterfly.
- C. Eduardo tripped over a cat, he was chasing a butterfly.
- D. Eduardo tripped over a cat, and the cat was chasing a butterfly.

- 4 Which edit should be made to the sentence below?

The rest of the team's uniforms had arrived in boxes, but Mia was unsure where her's was.

- A. Change *team's* to **teams's**.
- B. Change *uniforms* to **uniform's**.
- C. Change *boxes* to **boxes'**.
- D. Change *her's* to **hers**.

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

The assignment for spring vacation was to read the book *of Mice and Men*.

- A. spring
 - B. vacation
 - C. *of*
 - D. *and*
- 6 How should the underlined word in the sentence below be spelled?

Pat's impatience vanished when the movie started.

- A. impashence
- B. impatiance
- C. impatience
- D. impateince

- 7 In which box should there be a semicolon (;)?

- A. We left the concert early and went straight home.
- B. Apples are my favorite fruit pears are a close second.
- C. Because we expected rain we moved the picnic inside.
- D. Turn the heat down That pot is boiling over.

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

The explorer's long journey ended. His team members returned home.

- A. The explorer's long journey ended, his team members returned home.
- B. Although the explorer's long journey ended, his team members returned home.
- C. After the explorer's long journey ended, his team members returned home.
- D. The explorer's long journey ended, but his team members returned home.

- 9 Which edit should be made to the sentence below?

Jason would like us to meet his Uncle, who plays professional football for the Vikings.

- A. Change *Uncle* to **uncle**.
- B. Change *who* to **Who**.
- C. Change *professional* to **Professional**.
- D. Change *Vikings* to **vikings**.

- 10 Which of the following is a sentence fragment?

- A. J. C. Greenburg has written a series of adventure books called *Andrew Lost*.
- B. Andrew, Judy, and a very smart robot called Thud are the main characters.
- C. Andrew loves to invent things, but they usually do not work.
- D. The first book that J. C. Greenburg wrote *Andrew Lost on the Moon*.

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

- read the prompt carefully,
- develop a complete response to the prompt,
- proofread and edit your writing, and
- write only in the space provided.

Narrative

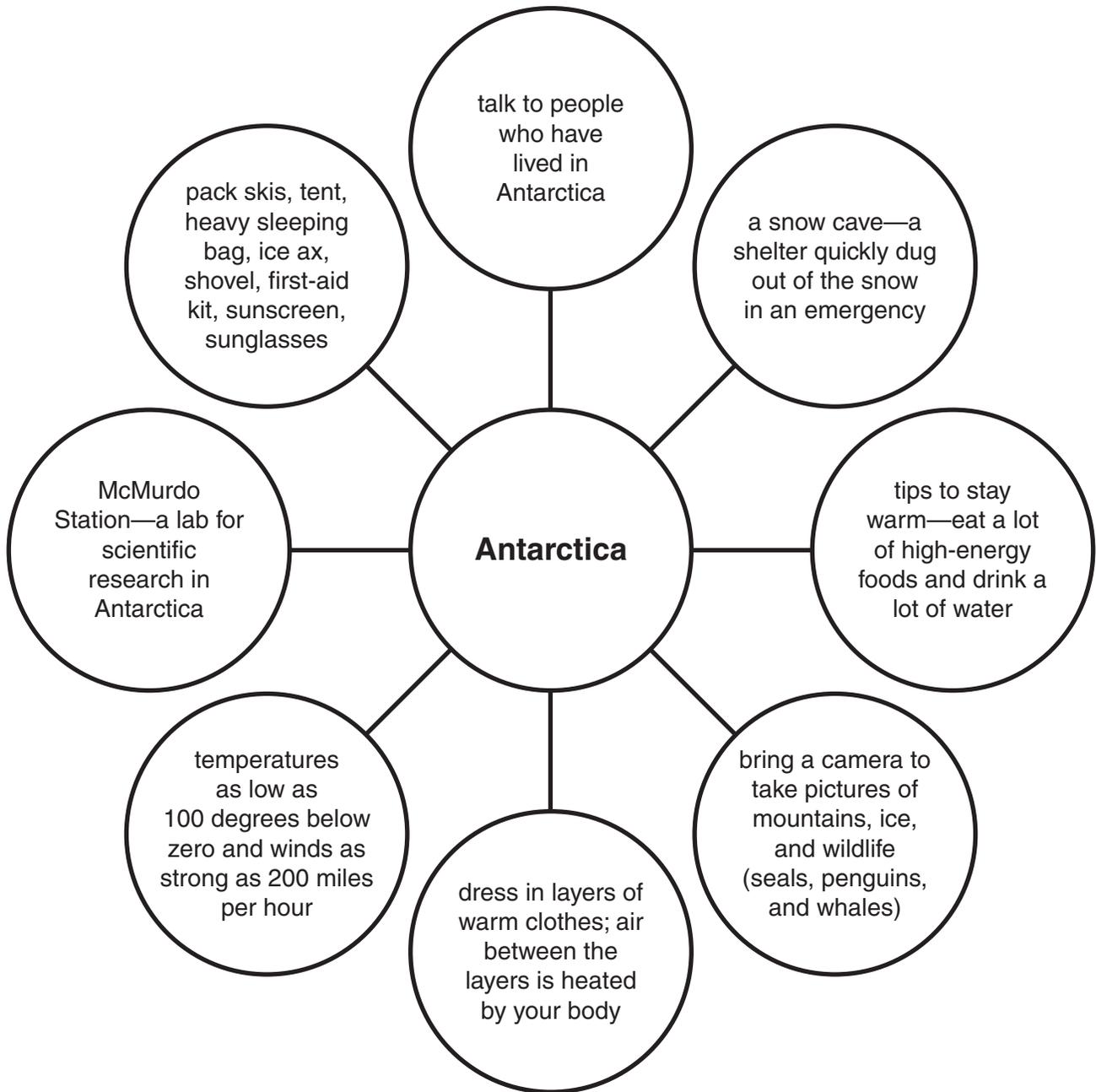
Look at this picture and write a response to the prompt that follows.



- 11 Write a paragraph that describes what the climber is thinking. Write the paragraph from the climber's point of view.

Report

A student created this organizer about Antarctica. Read the information in the organizer and think about what people need to survive in Antarctica. Then write a response to the prompt that follows.



- 12 Write a paragraph that explains what people need to survive in Antarctica. Select **appropriate** information from the organizer to support the focus of your paragraph.

Response to Informational Text

As you read, think about whether the system described in the passage would help an eighth grader who has a messy room. Then write a response to the prompt that follows.

How to Make It Appear as Though You Have Cleaned Your Room in Only 27 Minutes—No Matter How Messy It Is

Sandra and Harry Choron

If your room looks like they used it to shoot the last *Star Wars* sequel, it's probably because you don't clean it a little each day—you wait until it's a complete disaster area and then feel overwhelmed when your parents finally threaten to ground you if you don't do something about the mess. Here's a way to get it all started.

1. Get a huge trash bag and walk around the room with it, throwing into it everything you don't need: candy wrappers, ticket stubs, the styrofoam that came with your new DVD player, the broken crayons, and the pen that doesn't work. It's a good time to even think about throwing out stuff you don't *really* need: pieces of toys you know you won't ever play with again, stuff you sent away for that was free but not even worth the \$1 you had to include for postage and handling. The more stuff you get rid of now, the less chance there is for a future mess. Do this in 10 minutes.

2. Put dirty clothes in the hamper. Put clean clothes back in drawers or in the closet. Do this in 3 minutes.

3. You'll still have a mess. You need to sort the rest of it into the following piles:

- stuff that belongs outside your room (the scissors you borrowed, the book that has to go back to the library)
- school stuff
- computer and music disks, electronic game cartridges
- pencils, pens, and other writing and drawing tools (stick these in an empty jar)
- toy parts
- loose change
- everything else

Make neat piles. In the next few days, tackle each of these piles *one at a time*. Do this in 10 minutes.

4. Make the bed. Do this in 3 minutes.

5. Open a window to air out the place. Do this in 1 minute.

6. For extra credit, vacuum the room.

- 13 Would this system help an eighth grader who has a messy room? Write a paragraph that explains why or why not. Use details from the passage to support your response.

Persuasive Writing

- 14 Ever since the 1950s, when rock-and-roll music was introduced, adults have worried about how music lyrics affect preteens and teenagers.

Do you think adults should or should not worry about the lyrics in the music that young people listen to today? Write a persuasive letter to a newspaper stating and supporting your opinion.

Before writing, consider

- *your position or opinion*
- *your supporting arguments and/or reasons*
- *any counterargument(s)*

A complete response to the prompt includes

- a clear purpose/focus
- coherent organization
- details/elaboration
- well-chosen language and a variety of sentence structures
- control of conventions

Acknowledgments

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