



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Student Practice Test Booklet**

**Grade 5**

**Reading**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Reading—Session 1

Answer questions 1 and 2 on page 2.

*Below are four words and their meanings from the glossary of a science book.*

**biology** – the study of life

**ecology** – the study of the relationship of organisms to their environment

**entomology** – the study of insects

**ornithology** – the study of birds

- ❶ What does the word radiology mean?
- A. radios and their parts
  - B. the study of X-rays
  - C. the use of radon
  - D. radical ideas in science

The star football player can weave around the other team's players.

- ❷ Which sentence **best** shows how the word weave is used in the box above?
- A. One of the crafts at camp was to weave a basket.
  - B. Thoughtful people weave ideas all during the day.
  - C. Tiny spiders weave their webs across small bushes.
  - D. Two police cars weave through the afternoon traffic.

Read the following two poems. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Drops

A teardrop  
looks like sadness  
and has a salty taste.

5 A raindrop tastes of sky  
and brings a shower.

A dewdrop is a new drop,  
a taste-of-morning-brew  
drop

10 and is probably delicious  
to a flower.

—*Constance Levy*

## April Rain Song

Let the rain kiss you.  
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.  
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.

5 The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.  
The rain makes running pools in the gutter.  
The rain plays a little sleep-song on our roof at night—

And I love the rain.

—*Langston Hughes*

**Answer questions 3 through 6 on page 2.**

- 3 The poet's message in the poem "Drops" is to
- A. tell the reader a story about dewdrops.
  - B. persuade the reader to go out into the rain.
  - C. explain how tears are like dew.
  - D. describe different kinds of drops.
- 4 Line 6 of "April Rain Song" says, "The rain plays a little sleep-song." Which phrase means the same as "sleep-song"?
- A. "silver liquid drops"
  - B. "a lullaby"
  - C. "still pools on the sidewalk"
  - D. "the gutter"
- 5 In "April Rain Song," the poet shows the rain as **both**
- A. gentle and strong.
  - B. lips and head.
  - C. silver and gold.
  - D. drops and sheets.
- 6 In "April Rain Song," the poet describes all of the following **except** how
- A. the sound of rain helps some people sleep.
  - B. the rain makes puddles on the sidewalk.
  - C. the rain makes moving pools in the gutter.
  - D. the sun comes out and creates a rainbow.

**Answer question 7 on page 2.**

- 7 In the last line of the poem "April Rain Song," the poet writes, "And I love the rain." Explain how the poet shows his feelings about the rain throughout the poem. Use specific examples from the poem to support your answer.

Read the article explaining how to make a compass. Then answer the questions that follow.

## How Can You Make a Compass?

by Gabriel Reuben

*Gather the following equipment:* A bar magnet, a 6-inch piece of thread, a needle, a pin, a small piece of cellophane tape, an empty jar with a cover, and a compass.

*Follow this procedure:*

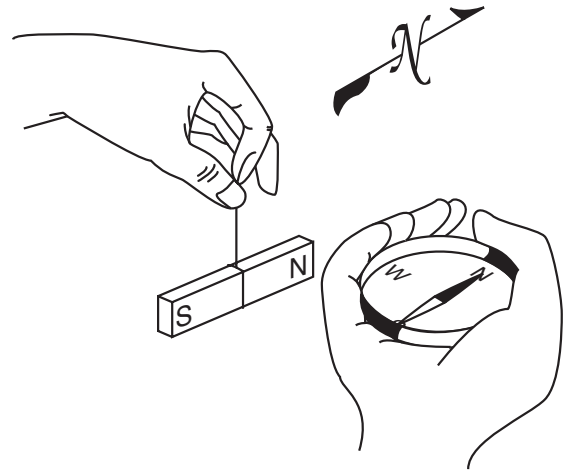
1. Tie one end of the thread around the middle of the magnet so that the magnet balances when you hold it by the thread. When the magnet stops swaying, see which way the north pole is pointing. Compare this with the way the compass needle is pointing.

**WARNING:** Don't let the magnet get too close to the compass. The magnet can attract the compass needle and weaken its effectiveness.

*You will observe:* When the magnet comes to rest, the north pole points north.

2. Rub the needle lengthwise along one of the poles of the magnet; each stroke must be in the same direction, not back and forth. When the needle is magnetized enough to attract the pin, tie the thread around the middle of the needle so that it balances. Tape the other end of the thread to the inside of the jar cover. Lower the needle into the jar so that it hangs freely when you tighten the cover. Compare the way the compass and the needle point.

*You will observe:* The needle is now a compass. It points north, as does the compass.



magnetic pole is about 1400 miles away from the geographic North Pole, and the south magnetic pole is about 1400 miles away from the geographic South Pole. The earth's magnetic poles change position from time to time. Magnets are attracted to the magnetic poles. This is why the poles of magnets are called north-seeking and south-seeking, and why magnets can serve as compasses.

Because the magnetic poles and geographic poles are not at the same place, mariners and others who must get accurate information from their compasses correct their compass reading with a chart which compensates for the error of the compass in various locations. The disparity between the magnetic and geographic poles is called the *angle of declination*. The magnet points to true north only in those places which lie in a straight line with the north geographic pole and the north magnetic pole.

It is said that the earth's magnetic field causes objects made of iron, nickel, or cobalt anywhere in the world to become magnetized if they remain unmoved for very long periods of time.

- 7 The earth itself is a tremendous magnet. The magnetic poles of the earth are said to be huge deposits of magnetite. The north

**Answer questions 8 through 11 on page 3.**

- 8 According to the article, why should you tie one end of the thread around the middle of the magnet?
- A. so the magnet does not fall
  - B. so the magnet will attract the compass
  - C. so the magnet balances when you hold it up
  - D. so the magnet will not move back and forth
- 9 One way to weaken a compass is to
- A. let the compass get too hot.
  - B. tie the compass up with thread.
  - C. rub a needle on the compass.
  - D. let the compass get too close to a magnet.
- 10 Which way do you need to rub the needle on the magnet?
- A. lengthwise along one of the poles and in one direction
  - B. lengthwise across both poles and in one direction
  - C. lengthwise along one of the poles and back and forth
  - D. lengthwise across both poles and back and forth
- 11 To make a compass, which of these would you do first?
- A. Lower a needle into a jar.
  - B. Rub a needle along one of the poles of a magnet.
  - C. Tape the end of a thread to the inside of a jar cover.
  - D. Tie a thread around the middle of a needle.

**Answer question 12 on page 3.**

- 12 What are the **main** ideas in this article? Explain your answer by using information from the article.

**Answer questions 13 through 16 on page 4.**

- 13 In paragraph 7, the word tremendous means
- A. useful.
  - B. reliable.
  - C. satisfactory.
  - D. huge.
- 14 The picture is meant to show all of the following **except**
- A. what the bar magnet and the compass look like.
  - B. how to hold the bar magnet and the compass.
  - C. where to put the string on the bar magnet.
  - D. that the bar magnet and the compass point in different directions.
- 15 If you wanted to know the meaning of the term *angle of declination* from this article, where would you look?
- A. index
  - B. glossary
  - C. headings
  - D. table of contents
- 16 If left unmoved for a long time, iron, nickel, or cobalt can become
- A. magnetized.
  - B. compasses.
  - C. magnetic poles.
  - D. north-seeking.

**Answer question 17 on page 4.**

- 17 In your own words, tell how to make your own compass. Use information from the article to support your answer.





# Acknowledgments

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