

Diocese of Davenport



4th Grade

Reading
Diocesan
Assessment

2009

Do not write in this test booklet.

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DIRECTIONS:

The following test has multiple choice questions.

Read the story and then on the multiple choice questions please review all of the choices and select the one you think best answers the question.

SAMPLE QUESTION:

1. Which of these would you find growing in a desert?
- A. A maple tree
 - B. A dandelion
 - C. A cactus
 - D. A corn plant

SAMPLE Please completely fill in the circles that best represent your responses. Fill in marks like this: ● not like this: ○ ⊗

1.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	34.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	67.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
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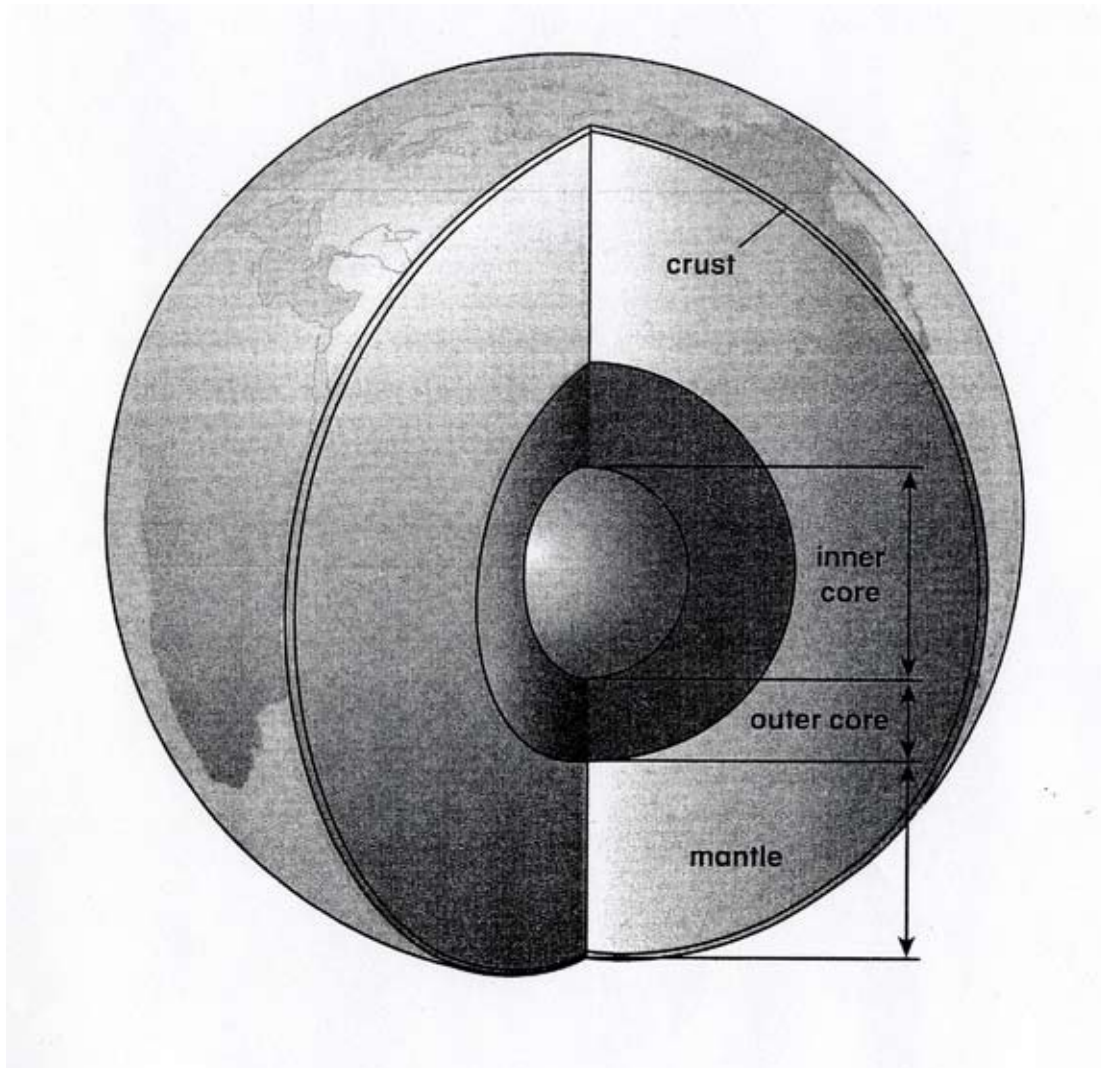
CODES:

Bettendorf Lourdes	01
Burlington Notre Dame	02
Clinton Prince of Peace	04
Dav. Assumption	05
Dav. All Saints	06
Dav. JFK	07
Dav. St. Paul the Apostle	08
DeWitt St. Joseph	09
Holy Trinity	10
Iowa City Regina	11
Keokuk Catholic	12
Muscatine Bish. Hayes	13
Ottumwa Seton	14
Washington St. James	15

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Earth's Core

If you could dig a hole to the center of the earth you would discover that the Earth is made of four layers. The diagram below shows the Earth's four layers. Use the diagram to answer the questions on the next page.



Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Which layer is the thinnest?
 - A. crust
 - B. mantle
 - C. outer core
 - D. inner core

2. Which layer is in the center of the earth?
 - A. crust
 - B. mantle
 - C. outer core
 - D. inner core

3. Which layer is next to the crust?
 - A. inner core
 - B. outer core
 - C. middle core
 - D. mantle

Energy Food

Athletes around the world love to praise pasta. It's energy food! Runners and other athletes need food that gives them energy over a long period of time, instead of all at once. Pasta does that. It belongs to a group of foods called carbohydrates. These foods make something called glucose. Glucose is held in your body. Then, when you need it, your body turns the glucose into energy. This is why many runners eat lots of pasta before a long, tiring race.

Athletes are not the only ones who praise pasta. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says people should eat 6 to 11 helpings of carbohydrates every day. Eating pasta is a great way to get those carbohydrates!

The U.S. government also thinks that eating pasta is a good way to pack in a little extra vitamin B. Vitamin B helps to stop many health problems, especially for women. Since 1998, the government has said that makers of pasta have to add vitamin B to pasta when it is made.

Pasta has other good things in it, too, such as vitamin A and some minerals. What it does not have is a lot of fat. One-half cup of macaroni has about half the fat of helping of lean turkey. It has about one-eighth the fat of a cup of yogurt.

There's another reason so many people praise pasta. It's not only good for you. It tastes great, too! With a little salt and pepper, it's a good afternoon snack. With a little cheese (not too much – cheese has lots of fat), it's everybody's favorite, macaroni and cheese.

So, the next time you are going to go on a long bike ride or play a game of soccer, have a big bowl of your favorite pasta.

Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

4. A food that gives you energy for a long period of time is _____.
 - A. meat
 - B. macaroni
 - C. candy
 - D. marshmallows
5. An opinion about pasta is _____.
 - A. pasta is a carbohydrate
 - B. it's a great snack
 - C. makers of pasta add vitamin B
 - D. there is little fat in pasta
6. A good summary of this story is _____.
 - A. people should eat more pasta, because it's a healthy, energy food
 - B. pasta has less fat than turkey or yogurt
 - C. athletes need to eat a lot before a race, because they need energy
 - D. spaghetti is a lot of fun to eat
7. We can tell by reading this passage that the author _____.
 - A. doesn't like pasta
 - B. owns a pasta company
 - C. owns a pasta company
 - D. likes pasta
8. The author's main purpose for writing this story is _____.
 - A. to make the reader hungry
 - B. to entertain the reader
 - C. to persuade the reader to eat more pasta
 - D. to tell the reader about vitamin B
9. The main idea of the first paragraph is _____.
 - A. athletes need lots of energy
 - B. athletes eat pasta because it gives them lasting energy
 - C. pasta belongs to a group of foods called carbohydrates
 - D. macaroni and cheese is everybody's favorite food

Dishpan Ducks

Rosa walked home from school slowly. The rows of apartment buildings and the streets full of cars looked all the same. And it was cold.

Rosa missed her country. She had begun to learn some English, but she did not know what to say or what to do when other kids were around. They were friendly, but Rosa felt safer being alone.

Behind Rosa's brick apartment building was a special place, a small creek where Rosa always stopped after school. There were ducks there, and she could speak to them in her language. The ducks seemed to understand.

Every afternoon Rosa sat on a concrete slab above the creek and watched the ducks until Mama came home from work.

Rosa did not feed them. She knew that most people food was not right for ducks. But she watched them swim and feed and walk up to her, quacking. Once they ever walked over Rosa's tummy as she lay with her feet stretched out on the bumpy grass. They like me, Rosa said to herself.

One day after school, the ducks were not in the water. They did not waddle toward Rosa, even though she stayed very still. Something was wrong.

Gently, Rosa tiptoed to where the ducks were huddled. "Are you sick?" she whispered. They looked different. They look greasy.

Then Rosa noticed the creek. An oily film covered it, making patches of color on the water's surface. She looked closely at the ducks. Their feathers were stuck together. They could not swim. They could not fly.

I must get help, said Rosa to herself. But how? I don't know anyone. Mama told me not to speak to strangers. Besides, I don't know how to ask in English.

Rosa had an idea. She rushed back to the street, walked to the traffic light, then raced around the corner and back to the school yard.

Rosa was in luck. Boys and girls were still there practicing baseball with the gym teacher.

Rosa had never played baseball in this country.

"Please! Come!" said Rosa, breathless, "Ducks!"

"Hello, Rosa." Said the teacher. "What's the trouble?"

"Ducks!" said Rosa again. It was one of the few English words she was sure of. "Come, Please. Ducks!"

She pointed in the direction of the creek. The kids were staring at her, but she didn't care. "Ducks!" she said again, her dark eyes pleading.

The teacher said something in English to his team. They looked at Rosa and talked all at once. Then the teacher smiled. "OK, Rosa," he said. "Show us." They all grabbed their baseball mitts and bats, and followed Rosa to the creek.

Pretty soon there were more people at Rosa's creek than she had ever seen there before. First the police came with their squad cars and sirens. Then came the firefighters with their big trucks and Humane Society workers in their vans.

People came out from the apartment building with dishpans and towels and liquid dish detergent. Rosa did not understand all the talk, but she knew what was happening.

The ducks were too weak to fly or run away. She and the other kids rounded them up and held them in the dishpans while the Humane Society people worked. Four washes for each duck with mild detergent, and four rinses with clear water. It reminded Rosa of doing the wash.

After a while someone brought a blow-dryer. Rosa laughed as the ducks were blown fluffy-dry. One by one, they were packed carefully into cages in the Humane Society vans.

"We'll keep them for a few days," one of the workers said. "They need time to regain the natural oils in their feathers, so they can keep themselves warm and swim properly. A big factory upstream spilled four hundred gallons of diesel fuel into the storm sewers last night.

What a mess! You got to these ducks just in time, young lady.”

Rosa did not know what the man was saying, but she saw how everyone smiled at her, and she felt proud.

By the time Rosa’s mama came home, the cars and vans and the people were gone. Rosa was in her special place by the creek. But she was not alone. She was playing baseball with three friends. Rosa was good at baseball. She was getting better at English, too.

“Home run!” she shouted, laughing, after she slugged the ball almost to the parking lot. Rosa was happy. And the dishpan ducks were safe.

10. Which of the following lessons is most important to the story
 - A. People need to work together in emergency
 - B. Oil spills need to be cleaned up by experts.
 - C. Animals and people need to take baths.
 - D. Children need to play baseball to make friends.
11. Why does Rosa return to the school yard?
 - A. She has forgotten her homework assignment.
 - B. She wants to play baseball with her friend.
 - C. She needs to get help for the ducks.
 - D. She wants to show her teacher a duck.
12. When Rosa tiptoes to the ducks and whispers to them, it shows that she
 - A. thinks that something might be wrong
 - B. likes to walk and speak quietly
 - C. does not want to wake up the ducks
 - D. wants to tell the ducks a story
13. What does the word “pleading” mean, as it is used in the sentence below?

“Ducks, ” she said again, her eyes pleading.

 - A. Yelling
 - B. Begging
 - C. Looking
 - D. Blinking
14. When Rosa plays baseball at the end of the story, what does it show?
 - A. She likes the gym teacher.
 - B. She has made new friends.
 - C. She misses the ducks.
 - D. She obeys her mother.

Hungry Spider and the Turtle

By Harold Courlander and George Herzog

Spider was a hungry one, he always wanted to eat. Everybody in Ashanti knew about his appetite. He was greedy, too, and always wanted more than his share of things. So people steered clear of Spider.

But one day, a stranger came to Spider's habitation out in the back country. His name was Turtle. Turtle was a long way from his home. He had been walking all day in the hot sun, and he was tired and hungry. So Spider had to invite Turtle into his house and offer him something to eat. He hated to do it, but if he didn't extend hospitality to a tired traveler it would get back around the countryside and people would soon be talking about Spider behind his back.

So he said to turtle: "There is water at the spring for you to wash your feet in. Follow the trail and you'll get there. I'll get the dinner ready."

Turtle turned and waddled down to the spring with a gourd bowl as fast as he could. He dipped some water from the spring and carefully washed his feet in it. Then he waddled back up the trail to the house. But the trail was dusty. By the time Turtle got back to the house his feet were covered with dirt again.

Spider had the food all set out. It was steaming, and the smell of it made Turtle's mouth water. He hadn't eaten since sunrise. Spider looked disapprovingly at turtle's feet.

"Your feet are awfully dirty," he said. "Don't you think you ought to wash them before you start to eat?"

Turtle looked at his feet. He was ashamed, they were so dirty. So he turned around and waddled as fast as he could down to the spring again. He dipped some water out of the spring with the gourd bowl and carefully washed himself.

Then he scurried as fast as he could back to the house. But it takes a turtle a while to get anywhere. When he came into the house Spider was already eating.

"Excellent meal, isn't it?" Spider said. He looked at turtle's feet with disapproval. "Hm, aren't you going to wash yourself?"

Turtle looked down at his feet. In his hurry to get back he had stirred up a lot of dust, and his feet were covered with it again.

"I washed them," he said. "I washed them twice. It's your dusty trail that does it."

"Oh," Spider said, "so you are abusing my house now!" He took a big mouthful of food and chewed it up, looking very hurt.

"No," Turtle said, sniffing the food. "I was just explaining."

"Well, run along and wash up so we can get on with the eating," Spider said.

Turtle looked. The food was already half gone and Spider was eating as fast he could.

Turtle spun around and hurried down to the spring. He dipped up some water in the gourd bowl and splashed it over his feet. Then he scrambled back to the house. This time he didn't go on the trail, though, but on the grass and through the bushes. It took him a little longer, but he didn't get dust all over his feet. When he got to the house he found Spider licking his lips.

"Ah, what a fine meal we had!" Spider said.

Turtle looked in the dish. Everything was gone. Even the smell was gone. Turtle was very hungry. But he said nothing. He smiled.

"Yes, it was very good," he said. "You are certainly good to travelers in your village. If you are ever in my country you may be assured of a welcome."

"It's nothing," Spider said. "Nothing at all."

Turtle went away. He didn't tell other people about the affair at Spider's house. He was quiet about his experience there.

But one day many months later Spider was a long distance from home and he found himself in turtle's country. He found Turtle at the shore of the lake getting a sunbath.

“Ah, friend Spider, you are far from your village,” Turtle said. “Will you have something to eat with me?”

“Yes, that is the way it is when a person is far from home — generosity merits generosity,” Spider said hungrily.

“Wait here on the shore and I’ll go below and prepare the food,” Turtle said. He slipped into the water and went down to the bottom of the lake. When he got there he set out the food to eat. Then he came to the top of the water and said to Spider, who was sitting impatiently on the shore, “All right, everything is ready. Let’s go down and eat.” He put his head under water and swam down.

Spider was famished. He jumped into the water to follow Turtle. But Spider was very light. He floated. He splashed and splashed, kicked and kicked, but he stayed right there on top of the water. For a long time he tried to get down where Turtle was eating, but nothing happened.

After a while Turtle came up, licking his lips.

“What’s the matter, aren’t you hungry?” he said. “The food is very good. Better hurry .” And he went down again.

Spider made one more desperate try, but he just floated. Then he had an idea. He went back to the shore, picked up pebbles and put them in his pockets of his jacket. He put so many pebbles in his pockets that he became very heavy. He was so heavy he could hardly walk. Then he jumped into the water again, and this time he sank to the bottom, where Turtle was eating. The food was half gone. Spider was very hungry. He was just reaching for the food when Turtle said politely.

“Excuse me, my friend. In my country we never eat with our jackets on. Take off your jacket so that we can get down to business.”

Turtle took a great mouthful of food and started chewing. In a few minutes there wouldn’t be anything left. Spider was aching all over with hunger. Turtle took another mouthful. So Spider wriggled out of his coat and grabbed at

the food. But without the pebbles he was so light again that he popped right up to the top of the water.

People always say that one good meal deserves another.

15. Why did Spider invite Turtle to share his food?
 - A. To amuse himself.
 - B. To be kind and helpful.
 - C. To have company at dinner.
 - D. To appear generous.
16. When Turtle remains quiet about his mistreatment by Spider, the author wants you to
 - A. believe Turtle is afraid
 - B. have sympathy for Turtle
 - C. feel dislike for Turtle
 - D. think Turtle deserved no dinner
17. Which best describes Spider’s character?
 - A. Patient
 - B. Friendly
 - C. Selfish
 - D. Angry
18. Spider’s behavior during the first part of the story is most like that of
 - A. mothers protecting their children
 - B. thieves robbing banks
 - C. runners losing races
 - D. people not sharing their wealth
19. Spiders’ visit to Turtle in the second part of the story mainly shows that
 - A. Turtle could treat Spider the same way
 - B. Spider could float on the water
 - C. Spider could get a free meal
 - D. Turtle lived in a small house
20. What type of genre is the story, Hungry Spider and the Turtle?
 - A. Biography
 - B. Fairy Tale
 - C. Poem
 - D. Folk tale

A Fun Way to Remember

Making plaster castings of bird or animal tracks is a fun way to remember a special camping trip or other outdoor fun. And to remember times with a special friend, you can make castings of your own handprints or footprints pressed in the sand, mud, or snow.

To make a plaster casting of an animal track, you will need an old bowl and spoon to mix the plaster, some plaster of Paris, and water. You will also need a stapler and two strips of lightweight cardboard about two inches wide. The cardboard strips need to be long enough to bend in a circle bigger than the track.

The best tracks for casting have clean edges and are not too wet. When you have found one that looks good, staple the ends of each strip together to form two circles. Set one of the circles over the track. Next, mix the plaster of Paris with water. Make sure that all the water is absorbed and the plaster is thick enough to form a peak when you pull out the spoon. Pour the plaster into the track, making sure it is completely filled. The plaster should overflow to the edges of the cardboard.

To make castings in snow, first spray the track with water. This will form an icy film over it. Then, make sure the plaster of Paris is very cold before you pour it in. This way, the plaster does not melt the snow, changing the shape of the track.

Let the plaster of Paris dry for about 20 minutes. When you pull it off the track, what you are holding in your hand is called a mold. It is backward and inside-out. To make a casting that looks just like the bird or animal track, rub the track side of the mold with petroleum jelly. Put it on the ground, track-side up, and set the other circle of cardboard around it. Once again, you should mix up more plaster of Paris and pour it over the mold. When it is dry, you should be able to easily separate the casting and the mold.

To make your casting look more interesting, spread a thin layer of glue over it and sprinkle it with sand. You may also want to glue on a few shells, twigs or pine cones.

21. After setting the cardboard circle over the track, the next step is to _____.
 - A. bend the cardboard into a circle
 - B. let the plaster of Paris dry
 - C. separate the mold from the casting
 - D. mix the plaster of Paris with water
22. The author's main purpose is to explain how _____.
 - A. to make a plaster casting of a track
 - B. to make cardboard circles
 - C. tracks are made
 - D. thick the plaster should be.
23. The main idea of the first paragraph is _____.
 - A. bird and animal tracks are beautiful
 - B. you can make a casting of your own handprint
 - C. making plaster castings is a fun way to remember a special time
 - D. it's easy to make castings of bird and animal tracks.
24. Which of the following is a fact?
 - A. The cardboard should be heavy.
 - B. You can make castings in snow.
 - C. You need wax to make the mold.
 - D. The track should be very wet.
25. Before making a casting in snow, you should _____.
 - A. sprinkle the track with sand
 - B. spread a thin layer of glue over it
 - C. separate the casting from the mold
 - D. spray the track with water

The Storage Closet

What Alma really wanted was a mouse. There was a perfect white one at the pet store. She imagined it curled up in her hand, scratching its nose. It only cost \$1.50, but Alma was broke.

Maybe she could do chores for Mrs. Harwitz, the landlady. Alma told Mrs. Harwitz about the mouse. Mrs. Harwitz said, "How about cleaning out the storage closet under the stairs? That would be worth about five dollars." She laughed. "And if you find a mouse in there, he's yours, no charge."

Five dollars! Alma went to work, carrying newspapers out to the curb for the recycling truck to pick up, and stacking boxes of old, funny clothes in the hall. She found a chef's hat and put it on, pretending to make pizza, singing and tossing dough in the air.

There was a box that appeared to be full of rocks. When Alma looked closer, she saw that the rocks were fossils and arrowheads. One looked like a gigantic claw. A dinosaur's toenail? Alma hooked it through the air and snarled. Examining an arrowhead, she imagined a girl standing before the chief of her tribe. "Please, Father," she pleaded, "teach me to use a bow!"

On the back wall, a guitar hung by its strap from a nail. Alma took it down and strummed it gently. It made a lovely, hollow sound, reminding her of an old song. She strummed the guitar a few more times, looking for the music it seemed to hold, before picking up the dustpan and broom.

It was then that Alma saw a tiny, gray blur shoot across the floor. Mrs. Harwitz had said she might see a mouse! She imagined taking it upstairs and placing it in a plastic cage like the ones at the pet store. Suddenly that vision seemed sad. "I could visit you here," she said to the mouse. "We could have imaginary adventures together."

Alma swept, then restacked the boxes and put away the guitar and the hat. As she shut the door, Mrs. Harwitz came out, saying, "All done? I've got your five dollars, but I'm afraid the pet store may be closed."

Alma had forgotten all about the pet store. "That's okay," she said. "I've changed my mind about getting a mouse. But can I play here sometimes?"

Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

26. Most of this story takes place in a _____.
- A. farmhouse
 - B. garage
 - C. closet
 - D. pet store
27. After Alma saw the mouse in the storage closet, she _____.
- A. strummed the guitar
 - B. found a box full of rocks
 - C. carried newspapers out to the curb
 - D. imagined taking the mouse upstairs
28. After reading the story, you can correctly predict that Alma will _____.
- A. return to play more imaginary games in the storage closet.
 - B. ask Mrs. Harwitz if she has any more chores for her to do
 - C. use her five dollars to buy a mouse and a plastic habitat from the pet store
 - D. start collecting fossils and arrowheads
29. The author's main purpose in writing this story was probably _____.
- A. to teach about fossils
 - B. to tell the reader not to buy mice
 - C. to tell how to clean a storage closet
 - D. to entertain the reader
30. A general statement you can make based on this story is that a closet can store _____.
- A. only arrowheads
 - B. mice
 - C. many interesting things
 - D. a pet
31. Alma thought about a dinosaur because _____.
- A. the fossils touched off her imagination
 - B. she was getting bored cleaning the closet
 - C. she examined an arrowhead
 - D. the box was full of rocks