

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

FCAT 8th Grade Reading

**Sample Test:
Ben Franklin**



Reading Book

Helpful Tips

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a short written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points. A partial answer is worth 1 point.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a longer written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points. A partial answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.

Answers to the short- and long-answer questions can receive full or partial credit. You should try to answer these questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer. If you get a portion of the answer correct, you will get a portion of the points.

- Read the question carefully.
- If you do not understand the question, go back and review the passage.
- Write your answer on the lines provided in the Answer Book.
- Remember that it is necessary to include details and information from the passage in your answer.
- Be sure to answer every part of the questions.
- Use clear, concise language to explain your answer.
- Reread the answer to make sure it says what you want it to say.

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Ben Franklin

Ben Franklin was a man of vision. In the 1700's, he looked for ways to help others, and today millions of people still benefit from his ideas.

Ben was the 15th in a family of 17 children. At the age of 12 he became an apprentice, working in his older brother's print shop. This was the beginning of a life of writing articles and books. He even became a newspaper publisher in later years. Ben loved to read and devoured book after book, believing "the doors of wisdom are never shut."

He was a man of many talents, and science was another area in which he excelled. The famous kite experiment is one example of his work. To prove that lightning is electricity, he flew a kite outside during a thunderstorm. Sure enough, lightning hit the kite, traveled down the string, and made sparks fly from a key he had attached to the end of the string.

Ben Franklin used this experiment for one of his many inventions, the lightning rod. A simple metal rod is attached to a roof to attract lightning. When lightning hits the metal, it travels down the rod into the ground instead of setting the building on fire.

Franklin also invented bifocal glasses to help people see better, and he designed a stove that saved fuel and provided better heat. He discovered that poor ventilation causes disease to flourish, and he later established the first city hospital in America. In Philadelphia he also established the police department, the fire department, a public library, and a university. In addition, he was the founder of the United States Postal Service.

Perhaps the best service he provided to future generations was by signing both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. At various times he served as a U.S. delegate to England and France, and the people of Philadelphia sent him to represent them at the Second Continental Congress.

Benjamin Franklin spent much of his life trying to make the world a better place. In recognition of his many accomplishments, his image has appeared on U.S. stamps, coins, and paper money. The name of Benjamin Franklin will always be listed as one of the greats in American history.

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Sample Test: Ben Franklin



Answer Book

Name _____ Date _____

Teacher _____ Score ____ / 12

Read the story "Ben Franklin." Now answer Numbers 1 through 8. Base your answers on the story.

1

Read this sentence from the article.

Ben loved to read and devoured book after book, believing "the doors of wisdom are never shut."

What does the word devoured mean?

- (A) opened up
- (B) looked up
- (C) went around
- (D) went through

2

What part of Franklin's kite experiment proved that lightning is electricity?

- (A) Lightning traveled down the string of the kite.
- (B) Sparks flew from a key attached to the kite string.
- (C) The surface of the kite was covered with lightning.
- (D) The kite remained in the air during the thunderstorm.

3

From his childhood to his adult life in Philadelphia, what were Benjamin Franklin's accomplishments related to reading and writing? Explain your answer with details and information from the article.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

4

The author's purpose for writing the article is

- (A) to describe Benjamin Franklin's struggle to invent electricity
- (B) to inform the reader of Benjamin Franklin's accomplishments
- (C) to report Benjamin Franklin's role as a soldier in the Revolutionary War
- (D) to explain how Benjamin Franklin's picture was chosen to appear on the \$100 bill

5

According to the article, what did Benjamin Franklin do that helped Americans the MOST?

- (A) served as a delegate to France
- (B) served as a delegate to England
- (C) signed the Constitution
- (D) started the Second Continental Congress

7

What expression best describes the author's attitude toward Benjamin Franklin?

- A admiring
- B amused
- C cautious
- D critical

8

The information in the article "Benjamin Franklin" could best be used for a student research project on

- A how scientific experiments are conducted in a laboratory
- B how children learned to read in Colonial America
- C people who wrote books on electricity
- D people who helped build America

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Sample Test: Ben Franklin



Answer Key

Answer Key: Ben Franklin

This book contains answers and explanations for the Mushrooms Sample Test questions. Multiple-choice items are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer. Answers to short-response and extended-response “Read, Think, Explain” questions are scored with two-point and four-point rubrics respectively. For short- and extended-response questions, there is often more than one acceptable response. Partial credit is given for accurate but incomplete answers. The overall characteristics of top-score and partial-credit responses for the “Read, Think, Explain” questions are given in the general two-point and four-point rubrics below.

Sample top-score responses are provided for each “Read, Think, Explain” question.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Rubric for Short-Response Questions

- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a complete understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and /or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Rubric for Extended-Response Questions

- 4 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a thorough understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information is clearly text-based.
- 3 Points:** The response indicates that the student has an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate and fulfills all the requirements of the task, but the required support and/or details are not complete or clearly text-based.
- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples and requirements of the task may be incomplete or omitted.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has very limited understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The response is incomplete, may exhibit many flaws, and may not address all requirements of the task.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

1. D
2. B
3. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Benjamin Franklin first worked with his older brother at his print shop. Because of that he started writing articles and books. Later he became a newspaper publisher. In Philadelphia he created a university and one public library. Also he was honored to sign the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

4. B
5. C
6. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Ben Franklin looked toward the future and tried to help people by making the world a better place. He discovered that lightning is electricity. His inventions were the lightning rod, bifocals, and a stove that saved fuel and heated better. He discovered that poor ventilation causes diseases to flourish so he established the first hospital in America. In Philadelphia, he founded the police department, fire department, a library, and a university. In government, he established the U.S. Postal Service. Franklin was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

7. A
8. D