

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE TEST ITEMS

FOR

PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 6

(Test items developed for skills measured in TAKS03)

Skills

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| 1.0 Understanding Text | 4.0 Critical Thinking Skills |
| 1.1 Word Meaning | 4.1 Inferences/Conclusions/
Generalizations |
| 1.2 Main/Major Ideas/Important
Details | 4.2 Fact and Opinion |
| 2.0 Apply Knowledge | 4.3 Connect/Compare/Contrast |
| 2.1 Analyze Characters | 4.4 Style/Tone/Mood of Text |
| 2.2 Story Plot/Setting/Problem
Resolution | |
| 2.3 Literary Devices | |
| 3.0 Analyze Text | |
| 3.1 Cause and Effect | |
| 3.2 Similarities and Differences
across Texts | |
| 3.3 Purposes of Text | |

Number of questions: 42

Number of pages: 12

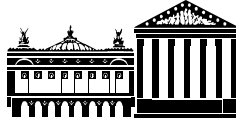
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TAKS03 PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 6
FORM A

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The City of Pompeii



- 1 In A.D. 62 a violent earthquake shook the cities and towns near Mount Vesuvius, severely damaging many buildings. One of these towns, Pompeii, was a prosperous town that had been founded in the 700's B.C. by a people native to the region. In later years the people of Pompeii were influenced by the Greek colonies on the coast and built public buildings in the Greek style. Because it was a port located on the Gulf of Naples, the city gradually collected wealth through trade in wine, oil, and other products. By the late first century B.C., wealthy Roman landowners were attracted to Pompeii because of its mild climate and prosperous trade. Many of them built great villas for their families.
- 2 Reconstruction of some of the buildings damaged in the earthquake of A.D. 62 was never completed. Mount Vesuvius erupted suddenly and violently in A.D. 72, releasing rivers of red-hot lava and mud that poured into the nearby town of Hercaulaneum. Most of the people of that town had time to escape. Many people in Pompeii, however, could not escape. Hot cinder, ashes, and stones rained down on the town, and poisonous gases filled the air. In just a few days, Pompeii was buried in sixteen to twenty feet of volcanic material.
- 3 When the wet cinders and ashes cooled and dried, they sealed up much of Pompeii. It was not until the eighteenth century that serious excavation began. The excavators, however, were interested mainly in finding valuable objects, so they concentrated only on certain buildings. In the nineteenth century, Giuseppe Fiorelli started excavating the ancient Roman town block by block. Excavation continued, and about fifty years ago it

My notes about what I am
reading

1. What are villas as mentioned in the last sentence of the first paragraph?

- A. Schools
- B. Villages
- C. Towns
- D. Homes

2. Why were landowners attracted to Pompeii?

- A. Beautiful land
- B. Crops were easy to grow and sell
- C. Mild climate and prosperous trade
- D. Nice city to raise family