Maze

Administration Directions and Scoring Keys

Grade 4 | Benchmark Assessment

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with

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Acadience Learning Inc.
**Maze**  
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**Directions:** Make sure you have reviewed the scoring rules in the *Acadience Reading K–6 Assessment Manual* and have them available. Say these specific directions to the students:

1. **Before handing out the worksheets,** say *I am going to give you a worksheet. When you get your worksheet, please write your name at the top and put your pencil down.* Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure each student has the appropriate worksheet. When all of the students are ready, say *You are going to read a story with some missing words. For each missing word there will be a box with three words. Circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. Look at Practice 1.*

   **Listen.** After playing in the dirt, Sam went *(pause)* home, summer, was *(pause)* to wash her hands. You should circle the word “home” because “home” makes the most sense in the story. **Listen.** After playing in the dirt, Sam went home to wash her hands.

   **Now it is your turn.** Read Practice 2 silently. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. When you are done, put your pencil down.

   Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down. If necessary, after 30 seconds say *Put your pencil down.*

2. As soon as all students have their pencils down, say **Listen.** On her way home, she *(pause)* chair, sleep, saw *(pause)* an ice cream truck. You should have circled “saw” because “saw” makes the most sense in the story. **Listen.** On her way home, she saw an ice cream truck.

   When I say “begin,” turn the page over and start reading the story silently. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. **Ready? Begin.** Start your stopwatch after you say “begin.”

3. Monitor students to ensure they are reading and circling the words. Use the reminders as needed.

4. At the end of **3 minutes,** stop your stopwatch and say *Stop. Put your pencil down.* Collect all of the Maze worksheet packets.

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<th><strong>Timing</strong></th>
<th>3 minutes. Start your stopwatch after you say “begin.”</th>
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| **Reminders** | If the student starts reading the passage out loud, say *Remember to read the story silently.* (Repeat as often as needed.)  
If the student is not working on the task, say *Remember to circle the word in each box that makes the most sense in the story.* (Repeat as often as needed.)  
If the student asks you to provide a word for them or, in general, for help with the task, say *Just do your best.* (Repeat as often as needed.) |
The Lizard Store

Lisa flopped onto her bed and gazed at the walls of her room. Today she was finally going to get a pet! Pictures of puppies, kittens, tigers, and even gorillas peered at her from her bedroom walls. There was no doubt that Lisa was an animal lover. Whether the animal was big or small, furry or smooth, Lisa was wild about it.

The only problem was that Lisa was allergic to furry pets. The slightest whiff would make her sneeze, cough, and itch. She once visited a friend who had a rabbit, and her eyes swelled shut for three hours. Owning a dog, a cat, or even a hamster was impossible for her and this made Lisa sad. She tried to make up for it with her animal posters, but she still longed for a pet.

She didn't have to be sad any longer, though. Today she and Dad were going to Lou's Lizard Land to pick out an animal companion. There would be no fur or fuzz to irritate Lisa's nose at this store, because they only sold lizards, snakes, turtles, and frogs.

When Dad's car pulled up to the house, Lisa dashed outside. “Hop in,” said
Dad, “we've got some shopping to do!”

At the store, they looked inside every cage and glass aquarium that held a small creature.

Some of the animals hid, while others seemed not to notice the two humans. Lisa stopped in front of one aquarium that held a small green lizard moving slowly up a branch. When it noticed Lisa, it gazed at her and curled its long tail around the branch.

She said to her Dad excitedly, “Come look at this lizard!” Dad hurried over to see, and a salesclerk approached and told them that the lizard was a chameleon, a type of lizard that can change the color of its skin to adapt to temperature, light, and mood.

Lisa noticed that this particular lizard was a beautiful green color. She remembered reading that when lizards were green, they were usually feeling calm. She also noticed that the lizard's feet curled almost completely around the branch in its cage. “That's so they can climb trees easily,” said the sales clerk. “Eventually, the lizard will actually prefer to ride on your shoulders.”
and see the \textbf{world} with you.”

Lisa could hardly wait to \textbf{take} her new pet home. The salesclerk \textbf{told} her that the lizard would probably \textbf{be} shy at first, but its skill in \textbf{adapt}ing to different environments would make it a very good pet.

Later that evening, Lisa \textbf{said} goodnight to her new pet. “It \textbf{won’t} be long until we're best friends!” she \textbf{said} with a smile.
A Leaning Tower

The country of Italy is home to a building you may recognize. It is called the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and it is one of the most recognized buildings in the world. The building is an eight-story, white, round tower with large bells at the top. Thousands of tourists visit the building each year. People stand at the bottom and look up. As they do this, their heads tilt to match the leaning of the building.

Construction of the remarkable building began over eight hundred years ago, in 1173, and lasted many years. Workers had finished three of the building's eight marble stories when they noticed something odd. The building was leaning! It was sinking into the ground. The engineer in charge changed the building's plans. The next stories that were added were slightly taller on one side. The idea was to even out the leaning. But the heavy marble only made the tower sink farther into the soil. Work was stopped at the time, but started once again and continued off and on for many years. It was finally done in the sixteenth century, and the tower still leaned.
At one point, the tower leaned so much that the top was about fifteen feet farther south than the bottom. People tried many ways to correct it, including bracing the building with support columns. Nothing seemed to correct or halt the leaning. One attempt to straighten it almost destroyed the tower. The building leaned farther and farther. In 1990, engineers worried that the building was unsafe, so they closed it and began work to correct some of the leaning. This time, they dug some of the unstable soil out from underneath the building's foundation on one side. When they removed the soil, that side of the building came down a little. The workers were able to steer the building where they wanted it, but they knew they would not straighten it entirely. After all, it would no longer be the Leaning Tower of Pisa if it were vertical. The building straightened several inches and finally stabilized entirely for the first time. Now, the building is once again safe and open to the public. You can climb the almost three
hundred stairs that make up the spiral staircase that leads all the way to the top. From there, you can see a view of Italy that is like no other.
There is a park in Arkansas where visitors come to enjoy the outdoors, view wildlife, camp, and hunt for diamonds. That's right, diamonds! Crater of Diamonds State Park sits on a piece of land that is full of diamonds, and visitors can dig through the dirt to find them. Whatever they find, they can keep.

One hundred years ago, the land belonged to a farmer. One day, while the farmer was in the field feeding his pigs, he saw something sparkle in the dirt. He hoped it was a little piece of gold. He scooped some of the rocky soil into a pan and washed it in water. He didn't find any gold, but he did find two strange pebbles. One was yellow and the other was white. He showed them to the president of his local bank, and learned that they were diamonds.

How did the diamonds end up on a farmer's property? Billions of years ago, there was a volcano on this part of the land. The diamonds were created deep inside the Earth, and then the volcano pushed them to the Earth's surface. The volcano is long gone, but the diamonds are still...
there.

Today, the land is owned by the state of Arkansas, and the park is a place for locals and tourists alike to enjoy. There is a visitor center where people can learn how the diamonds formed. The park also offers a discovery zone, where park rangers share tips about how to search for diamonds.

The diamonds are hard to find. Visitors can hunt for them in several different ways. They can simply walk along and look for diamonds on the surface. This is a good method to use after it rains. The rain washes the dirt away and uncovers the rocks and diamonds near the surface.

Many visitors prefer to use a small shovel to dig up a few inches of soil. They toss the soil onto a piece of screen. The dirt falls through the holes in the screen, leaving any rocks and diamonds behind.
Serious diamond hunters dig deep holes and send the soil through several screens. This method takes many hours of hard work and patience.

Over the years, several very large diamonds have been found at the park. However, most of the diamonds are very small. Still, the visitor who finds even a tiny diamond will keep the memory of a fun time forever!