



acadience® reading 7–8

Silent Reading

Grade 8 | Progress Monitoring 5

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PACKET OR OPEN THE BOOKLET  
PLEASE WAIT AND LISTEN FOR DIRECTIONS

**Sample: Multiple Choice Question**

1. Most weeks of the school year, the first day of the school week is:
- A) Friday
  - B) Monday
  - C) Wednesday
  - D) Sunday

**Silent Reading**

Student Response Sheet

Sample: (A) (B) (C) (D)

Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
1. (A) (B) (C) (D)	1. (A) (B) (C) (D)	1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D)	2. (A) (B) (C) (D)	2. (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)	3. (A) (B) (C) (D)	3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D)	4. (A) (B) (C) (D)	4. (A) (B) (C) (D)



## Shelter from a Storm

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► Clouds scudded in as if someone had stretched a metallic gray comforter across the sky, and flakes of snow drifted down like feathers from the comforter. Snowflakes settled on Ryan’s eyelashes, blurring his vision every time he blinked. Within minutes of the storm starting, he began experiencing full-fledged blizzard conditions. Reversing course and attempting not to panic, Ryan started back down the trail toward his parked truck. He estimated that he was approximately 4 miles from the trailhead and his truck, but was he traveling in the right direction?

The blizzard had created whiteout conditions; the horizon had vanished, and the sun had disappeared, too, making it difficult to see anything. Just slide one foot in front of the other, he coached himself; keep progressing. Why hadn’t he checked the weather forecast before driving out to Turquoise Valley Lake on a sudden whim? Summer or winter, autumn or spring, you always check the weather forecast before going hiking.

As he trudged along, Ryan reviewed everything he could remember about getting caught in a blizzard. Don’t eat snow because it will decrease your body temperature; melt snow

and then drink it. Move your hands and feet to keep hypothermia from setting in; hypothermia, potentially fatal, occurs when body temperature falls below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Ryan knew what he shouldn’t do, but what actions should he take? He racked his brain for positive actions, but he felt groggy and slow, as though his brain were freezing.

An idea seeped into Ryan’s head to look for shelter to avoid the cutting winds, but whiteout conditions prevented him from seeing anything. Turquoise Lake was in a valley; birches and pines surrounded him and Ryan tripped and fell to his knees. He told himself to get up, but his limbs refused to cooperate; the wind-driven snow swirling around made him feel peaceful.

An idea suddenly punched Ryan alert, and he began to dig frantically to excavate a snow cave to crawl into. That would shelter him from the cold and the wind until the blizzard wore itself out.

The blizzard raged on for what seemed like an eternity, but gradually, the weather cleared, and peering out of his cave, Ryan began to distinguish the colors and shapes of landmarks. He was chilled to the bone, but he was safe; he knew exactly where he was.

# 1 Acadience Reading

Grade 8/Passage 1

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## Comprehension Questions: Shelter from a Storm

Mark the correct answer on your answer sheet. DO NOT write on this form.

1. To *trudge along* means to:
  - A) plow snow or dirt off a path or road.
  - B) walk slowly with heavy steps.
  - C) suffer through a poor health condition.
  - D) run when exhausted.
2. The condition of having dangerously low body temperature is called:
  - A) hypothermia.
  - B) dystopia.
  - C) frostbite.
  - D) hypertension.
3. When you are *groggy*, you feel:
  - A) dazed or weak.
  - B) anxious or nervous.
  - C) cranky or annoyed.
  - D) hungry and shaky.
4. Why should you melt snow and drink it, rather than just eat it?
  - A) Eating snow will give you a headache.
  - B) Snow has potentially harmful bacteria.
  - C) The empty calories in the snow will make you feel less hungry.
  - D) Melted snow won't decrease your body temperature as much.
5. How far away was Ryan's truck when he decided to turn around?
  - A) 4 miles away
  - B) 1 1/2 miles away
  - C) 8 miles away
  - D) 2 miles away
6. Near the end of the passage, the wind-driven snow makes Ryan feel peaceful. Why do you think this is?
  - A) He is tired from his long hike.
  - B) He is getting his second wind.
  - C) The patterns in the snow made him calm.
  - D) He is starting to get hypothermia.
7. What was one thing Ryan remembered you should do when caught in a blizzard?
  - A) Stay put until someone saves you.
  - B) Move your hands and feet.
  - C) Take off your wet socks to prevent frostbite.
  - D) Put on as many layers of clothing as possible.
8. In the passage, Ryan *excavated* a snow cave. This means he:
  - A) made a cave on top of the snow out of birch and pine branches.
  - B) dug a hole in in the snow to make a cave.
  - C) dug down to reveal a cave that was already there.
  - D) built a wall of snow to protect himself from the wind.
9. What was the effect of snowflakes settling on Ryan's face?
  - A) The snowflakes gave him funny looking silver eyelashes and eyebrows.
  - B) The snowflakes melted and made it look like he was crying.
  - C) The snowflakes blurred his vision every time he blinked.
  - D) The snowflakes made his eyes and eyelids very cold.
10. During the blizzard, Ryan's view of his situation was that:
  - A) he should have paid more attention during snow school.
  - B) he was afraid the snow in his eyes would cause him to fall.
  - C) he had to do everything he could to survive.
  - D) everything around him was so beautiful.

## Foehn Winds

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► Weather in mountainous regions can be unpredictable because mountains restrict the ready movement of air, thus creating wind. Wind occurs when air travels from areas of high pressure to areas of low pressure in the atmosphere. Particularly tall mountains create differences in air pressure and, therefore, wind. When a strong, high-pressure system forms on one side of a mountain range and a corresponding low-pressure system forms on the other side, a foehn wind develops. A foehn wind is any warm, dry, strong wind that blows on the leeward, or downwind, side of a mountain. Because these pressure patterns are common in cooler months, foehn winds often occur from September through April in the Northern Hemisphere. The German term “foehn” was originally applied to winds that were first studied and observed in the European Alps. However, similar winds occur in mountainous regions all around the world.

A foehn wind develops when warm, moist air encounters the windward slope of a mountain. The windward slope of a mountain is the side facing the direction from which the warm, moist wind is blowing. As the air ascends the slope, the air expands and cools. Eventually, the water

vapor, or moisture in the air, condenses and turns into rain or snow precipitation. As it reaches the mountaintop, the air has lost most of its water vapor, so it is cold and dry. The low pressure on the downwind side that was shielded from the initial winds draws the air downward. As the air descends, it compresses and becomes warmer. The speed of the air increases, resulting in a hot and dry wind, sometimes at gale-force velocity. The air temperature can rise by several degrees in a matter of minutes.

While warmer temperatures in the winter might seem desirable, there can be negative effects. Foehn winds are called “snow eaters” because the hot, dry winds can sublimate snow, causing it to go from a solid to a gas, or from snow to water vapor, without passing through the liquid water phase. Sometimes the warmer temperatures cause flooding from rapidly melting snow, and when temperatures cool again the water can refreeze. In communities where foehn winds are common, drought conditions combined with high wind speeds can create wildfire hazards.

While foehn winds may bring warm, pleasant weather, they need to be monitored and predicted so people can plan for the possible adverse effects.

**Comprehension Questions: Foehn Winds**

Mark the correct answer on your answer sheet. DO NOT write on this form.

1. The side of the mountain facing the direction from which the wind is blowing is called the:
  - A) windhead slope.
  - B) windsome slope.
  - C) windward slope.
  - D) winded slope
2. Two characteristics that describe *foehn winds* are:
  - A) light and breezy.
  - B) cool and wet.
  - C) fast and strong.
  - D) warm and dry.
3. The word *leeward* refers to the:
  - A) types of pressure patterns more common in cooler months.
  - B) area of high pressure on mountain slopes.
  - C) downwind side of a mountain.
  - D) lack of precipitation on mountains.
4. Mountains create wind by:
  - A) limiting precipitation on their western slopes.
  - B) restricting the ready movement of air.
  - C) reducing the area where low pressure systems can occur.
  - D) contributing to the build up of moisture in the air.
5. Why does air lose most of its moisture by the time it reaches the top of a mountain?
  - A) Wind carries the moisture away from the mountain.
  - B) The moisture turns into rain or snow as it ascends the mountain.
  - C) The air heats up as it ascends the mountain, evaporating the moisture.
  - D) The moisture is converted into wind as it rises up.
6. What type of mountains can we predict have the greatest effect on weather?
  - A) wider mountains
  - B) taller mountains
  - C) shorter mountains
  - D) colder mountains
7. Which of the following forms when air travels from areas of high pressure to areas of low pressure?
  - A) wind
  - B) precipitation
  - C) dry pressure
  - D) warmer temperatures
8. What is the effect of low pressure on the downwind side of the mountain?
  - A) The air expands and becomes cold.
  - B) The air expands and becomes warm.
  - C) The air compresses and becomes warm.
  - D) The air compresses and becomes cold.
9. Based on this passage, we can assume that sustained foehn winds on a mountain used for skiing would cause:
  - A) the closure of the ski park.
  - B) hazardous conditions due to ice.
  - C) more snow for the skiers.
  - D) cold, wet weather.
10. Which best describes what a weather scientist most likely thinks of foehn winds?
  - A) Foehn winds are a negative effect of mountainous regions.
  - B) Foehn winds are a dangerous natural phenomenon.
  - C) Foehn winds are the best way to predict weather in mountainous regions.
  - D) Foehn winds are an important weather system to monitor and study.

### 3 Acadience Reading Grade 8/Passage 3

#### Breaking Free

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▶ India gained its independence in 1947, after almost 200 years of British control. Yet, the country's road toward decolonization, or the process of breaking free from the rule of another country, began well before 1947. Years before, led by Mohandas Gandhi, the people of India had come together for peaceful protests and strikes against British rule. By 1942, the British agreed to help prepare India to govern itself.

In the years after World War II, India inched closer to becoming a free nation. The war had sapped England's economy, and it could no longer afford to manage its colonies well. Also hastening the break from Britain was the fact that more and more Indians were in favor of self-rule.

Becoming a free nation was no easy task, but two things made the process go more smoothly than it might have otherwise gone. The Indian people were allowed to participate in the government during the years under British control. Also, a few privileged Indians had attended some of England's best schools and had come back home to help shape the new nation.

Jawaharlal Nehru became India's prime minister during the country's break from Britain. Under his leadership, the Indians wrote

a constitution that, among other things, gave more equal rights to its people. He helped set up a democratic government that is still in effect. Nehru hoped that the nation would use science and technology to solve its problems, especially the problem of poverty.

These were very high hopes for a place with so many religions, political groups, languages, nationalities, and identities. In such a place, there are sure to be clashes; in India there were many. In the middle of India's change to a free nation, fighting between Hindus and Muslims grew more heated and there seemed to be no point of consensus. The problem was solved by splitting India into two states: Pakistan and India. Hard feelings remained, though, and many died in the conflict.

Since breaking ties with Britain, India still struggles with a couple of key issues: how it sees itself in the world and the persistent problem of poverty. Its struggles have offered key lessons to the rest of the world. India is not yet the nation that its early leaders dreamed of, but it continues to evolve and improve after hundreds of years of colonialism.

**Comprehension Questions: Breaking Free**

Mark the correct answer on your answer sheet. DO NOT write on this form.

1. The word *decolonization* refers to:
  - A) the process of breaking free from the rule of another country.
  - B) allowing citizens to participate in the government for the first time.
  - C) a clash between a ruling country and the colony that it controls.
  - D) an act of cooperation between rival religious and political groups.
2. To cause something to happen sooner than it otherwise would have is called:
  - A) favor.
  - B) manage.
  - C) hasten.
  - D) compete.
3. The word *constitution* refers to a/an:
  - A) type of economy founded on trade with the country's colonies.
  - B) contract between a colony and a ruler that guarantees all freedoms.
  - C) type of government founded on strict democratic principles.
  - D) written record of the fundamental principles of a government.
4. How long did Britain have control over India?
  - A) 300 years
  - B) 200 years
  - C) 400 years
  - D) 100 years
5. In what way did Mohandas Gandhi contribute to the road toward decolonization?
  - A) He helped resolve the clash between religious groups in India.
  - B) He inspired people to protest the war in Europe.
  - C) As India's first prime minister, he negotiated with Britain.
  - D) He led people in peaceful protests against British rule.
6. How did diversity in India impact the country's shift to a free nation?
  - A) Religious tensions led to fighting and difficulty during the shift.
  - B) Deep divides between political groups led to the split of the country.
  - C) Clashes between different groups halted the governmental process.
  - D) Reaching a decision regarding the constitution was nearly impossible.
7. Today, India continues to struggle with:
  - A) positive relations with Europe.
  - B) maintaining a democratic government.
  - C) a weak economy.
  - D) widespread poverty.
8. According to the passage, what is the effect of being colonized?
  - A) Colonization mainly causes clashes within communities.
  - B) It has negative effects that can be easily remedied.
  - C) It can have either positive or negative effects.
  - D) It has long-lasting, negative effects on a nation.
9. What is another good title for this passage?
  - A) India's Road to Independence
  - B) Britain: A Colonial Power
  - C) How Nehru Shaped a Nation
  - D) A Smooth Transition of Powers
10. This passage leads us to believe that in order to manage a colony, a country must have:
  - A) strong diplomatic ties to the area and a large military presence.
  - B) a strong economy and the financial means to support another country.
  - C) prestigious universities and a strong, established economy.
  - D) charismatic leaders and the ability to export goods from the ruled country.