

Ocotillo Ridge Elementary
Parent Handbook
to
Third Grade
Reading Standards

Benchmark 2

This handbook is designed to inform and to help parents work with their children on grade-level standards. We feel that education is a community effort and your support is highly valued.

Listed are explanations and sample problems of each standard that students are expected to master at this grade level.

Reading Process

1. Determine the meaning of compound words, using knowledge of individual words.

What is the meaning of the word chalkboard:

- a.) a board for cleaning.
- b.) a board made of chalk
- c.) a board that you use for chalk
- d.) a white board

2. Determine the meaning and other features of words using the dictionary and thesaurus.

Dictionary Page

Oo

o-ver-alls: noun, a kind of loose trousers with a bib.

o-ver-board: adverb, over the side of a boat into the water

o-ver-cast: adjective, cloudy, gloomy, sunless

o-ver-coat: noun, a coat worn over other clothing

Which entry word would best be used to describe the weather?

- a.) overalls
- b.) overboard
- c.) overcast
- d.) overcoat

Thesaurus

dizzy: adjective: light-headed, giddy, woozy, faint, dazed, tipsy

dishonest: adjective: untruthful, lying, crooked

dim: adjective: faint, hazy, blurry, foggy

deaf: adjective: hearing impaired, hard of hearing

Which entry word is a synonym for dull?

- a.) dizzy
- b.) dishonest
- c.) dim
- d.) deaf

Please use the following passage for the next five questions

Name _____ Date _____

Big, Beautiful States

One day, Laura saw something new at school. A new map was hanging in the front of her classroom. The shape of the land on the map looked strange. It was a map of the state of Alaska. The usual map of Texas was missing. Her teacher Mr. Brown said that the class was going to learn about Alaska. "Alaska is the biggest state in the United States. Who knows anything about Alaska? Has anyone ever been there?" he asked.

One student raised his hand. "I lived there until I was five," said Andy. "It is really cold in Alaska in the winter. It also snows a lot. It is also dark all the time in the winter. In the summer the sun is out all day and all night. Sometimes there are beautiful lights in the sky. I really miss Alaska. It's too hot here," he said.

Mr. Brown laughed. "It is hot here, but Alaska really has some things in common with Texas. You'll see."

Laura frowned. She had lived in Texas her whole life. She liked hot weather because she could play outside all year. She did not care about lights in the sky. Laura did not like the idea that Alaska might be better than Texas in some ways.

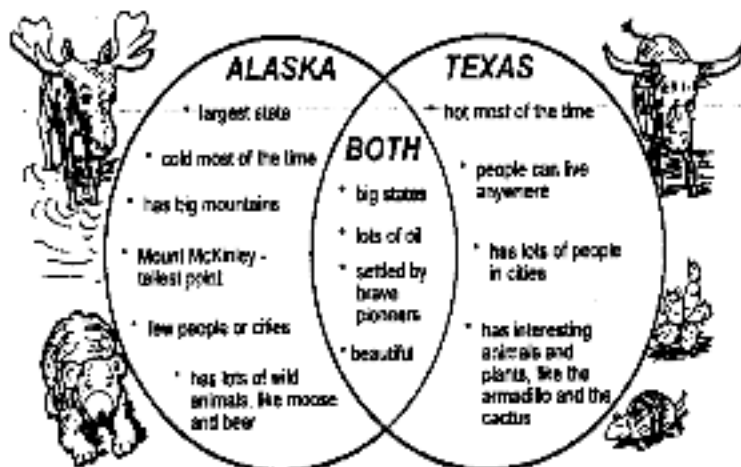
Mr. Brown drew two large circles on the blackboard. Part of one circle went over the other. Inside one circle he wrote the word "Alaska." In the other circle he wrote the word "Texas." Inside the part where the two circles touched each other, Mr. Brown wrote the word "both." Then he said, "First let's talk about how the two states are different."

Mr. Brown told the class that Andy was right. Alaska is cold most of the time. "Our winters are like the summers in Alaska. Alaska has only a few big cities because not many people live there. The cities are near the ocean because that is where the weather is warmer. Alaska also has big mountains. The tallest point in the United States is there. It is called Mount McKinley. Lots of wild animals live there, too. Moose and bear are examples." Mr. Brown wrote these things on the chalkboard in the circle marked Alaska.

Laura burst out, "Mr. Brown, Texas has great things, too. It's really big. People can live anywhere in Texas. We have lots of people in the cities. It is hot most of the time, but we have interesting animals and plants. We have armadillos and cactus."

As Laura talked, Mr. Brown wrote words in the circle marked Texas. When she was done, he said, "Now let's talk about how the two states are alike. Both states were first settled by pioneers. The pioneers were brave to live in these wild, unfamiliar places. They also were smart because they knew how important these places would be to the United States. Both have oil deep in the ground. Today oil is an important resource. Also, both places are beautiful. People come from all over the world to visit Alaska and Texas. What do you think, Laura? Would you ever want to go to Alaska?"

Laura smiled. "Maybe I would," she said.



3. Extract information from graphic organizers to comprehend text.

The Venn Diagram shows that Texas and Alaska---

- a.) are both cold most of the time.
- b.) are both big states
- c.) both have large oceans
- d.) both have lots of people in cities

Comprehending Literary Text

4. Make relevant connections between earlier events and later events in text.

After reading “Big, Beautiful States”, why are there cities by the ocean in Alaska?

- a.) The fishing is better by the ocean.
- b.) You can see the lights in the sky better by the ocean.
- c.) The weather is warmer near the ocean.
- d.) The weather is colder near the ocean.

5. Identify the main idea and supporting details in expository text.

What is the main idea of the “Big, Beautiful States”?

- a.) Texas is better than Alaska.
- b.) Alaska has interesting animals.
- c.) Texas is a hot place to live.
- d.) Texas and Alaska are similar in many ways.

What is NOT a supporting detail for Texas and Alaska being similar?

- a.) Texas and Alaska are both big states.
- b.) Texas is a bigger state than Alaska.
- c.) Texas and Alaska have lots of oil.
- d.) Texas and Alaska are both beautiful states.

Comprehending Informational Text

6. Locate facts in response to questions about expository text.

What is the tallest point in the United States?

- a.) Mount Rushmore
- b.) Mount McKinley
- c.) Mount Graham
- d.) Mount St. Helen

7. Provide multi-step directions.

Read the following directions on how to make hot chocolate, then answer the following question.

Hot Chocolate for Cold Days

Take out a mug, spoon, and hot chocolate mix and set aside.
Pour a cup of cold water into a pan and heat until it is boiling.
Turn off the stove and remove the hot water.
Put 3 tablespoons of hot chocolate mix into the mug.
Pour the heated water into the mug and stir.
Place a marshmallow on top and drink.

What is the 5th step for making hot chocolate?

- a.) Place a marshmallow on top and drink.
- b.) Pour a cup of hot water into a pan.
- c.) Pour the heated water into the mug and stir.
- d.) Turn off the stove.