



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PAWS

Reading

Grade 8

Released Items

With Data

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

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Portions of this work were previously published.

Printed in the United States of America.

Reading Released Items with Data Introduction Page / Data Definitions

This Released Items with Data document provides a subset of items from the 2015 administration of the PAWS test. The data for an item is on the page that follows that item. The following provides definitions for the data fields on the data page.

Passage Information:

Passage Accnum: Vendor identification code assigned to the passage

Title: Title of the passage/stimulus

Passage Ext. ID: Identification code assigned to the passage

Passage/Text Type: Mode or genre of passage (i.e.: informational/expository)

Item Information

Title: Title of the passage/stimulus the item belongs to

Passage/Text Type: Mode or genre of passage

2012 WyCPS Domain: Reporting category of the state content standards

2012 WyCPS Standard: State content standard

Item Code: Identification code assigned to the item

Admin: The year an item is administered

Item Type: The mode in which a student responds (MC means multiple-choice)

Correct Answer: The option letter (A, B, C, or D) that corresponds to the correct answer

Item Dok: The item's Depth of Knowledge designation, also called Cognitive Complexity;

- 1 - Recall and reproduction
- 2 - Skills and concepts
- 3 - Strategic and extended thinking

Total N-count: Number of students counted as taking the test in which the item appears during the listed administration (Includes item omissions)

Pvalue/Mean Score: For a multiple-choice item, the percent of students choosing the correct answer

Score Analysis

MC Row: Answer options available for students to choose from (including those who do not choose any option); an asterisk designates the correct answer

%Choosing Row: Percent of students choosing an option (or omitting)

Item Notes: Area where user can make notes

Passage Accnum:	VH074592	Title:	Baboon for President! Long Live the Queen Bee!	Passage Ext. ID:	WYR38P30
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository				

BABOON FOR PRESIDENT! LONG LIVE THE QUEEN BEE!

by Kathryn Hulick

- 1 When people need leaders, we elect presidents, crown kings, or hire CEOs. What do animals do? Groups of animals can't vote, but they still need to make important decisions about where to go to find food or what to do in the face of danger. Sometimes a leader helps make that decision, and other times, the group uses clever strategies to find a solution without a leader taking charge. . . .

Baboons



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- 2 Being the biggest, baddest boy baboon comes with some perks. The *alpha male* gets the tastiest food. . . . But is he the leader? Not really. "The alpha male is not going to make all of the decisions for the group," says Laurence Gesquiere of Princeton University. Also, he doesn't stay on top very long. A male has to fight to become alpha, and a younger, stronger baboon can always come and try to take that rank away.
- 3 Female baboons have their own, separate rank structure based on family relationships, and this rank lasts a lifetime. "The daughter, once she reaches maturity, is usually going to rank right below her mom," says Gesquiere. But just as in males, high rank doesn't make you "president" of the baboons. You may lead in some situations but not all.

- 4 Imagine that it's almost night time in Kenya,¹ and some baboons need a place to sleep. But there's a leopard at their sleeping site! Everybody stops. The baboons need a leader. Jeanne Altmann of Princeton University explains what might happen next. "Suddenly, an elderly adult female, who probably has some of the greatest knowledge of different places to go, will get up, walk through the group, and move toward a grove," says Altmann. She'll make sounds called group cohesion grunts. Other baboons echo the grunts, then follow her.
- 5 Hans Kummer writes about this type of leadership by older, more experienced *Hamadryas*² baboons in his book *In Quest of the Sacred Baboon*. He watched a young alpha male baboon try to lead his group north, but the old male at the back of the group kept stopping and wouldn't move until the younger one turned southwest. "The younger male, now a family leader, still pays attention to the scrawny oldster," Kummer says in his book. . . .

Bees



© Andrey Davidenko/Dreamstime #28848469

- 6 Bees have a queen, and she's the leader, right? Wrong! The queen is an important part of the hive, but she can't tell anyone else what to do. When it comes to making decisions like where to find food or where to live, the workers follow a fascinating, collective decision-making process. Collective decision making happens when no one in a group has perfect information, but you have to make a

¹ Kenya: a country in East Africa noted for its wildlife such as lions, zebras, elephants, baboons, crocodiles, and others

² *Hamadryas*: a species of baboon found in parts of Africa, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen

decision anyway. When bees are trying to decide where to find the best food, each worker only visits one patch of flowers. Back at the hive, the worker bees dance to tell the others about what they found. The better the food is, the longer and more energetically the worker will dance.

7 "It's kind of like bee democracy," says [Gro Amdam, a researcher at Arizona State University]. "The colony makes the decision to follow the bees that are in the largest numbers [and] advocating the most strongly."

8 How does the queen fit into all of this? She lays all of the eggs for the colony, and without a queen, the colony is doomed. If the current queen is getting old or if the colony is overcrowded, some worker bees will start building special cells, like cribs, meant to hold a baby queen. Again, bee democracy kicks (or buzzes) in—if other worker bees are still happy with the current queen, they'll tear down those cribs. New queens are only born when a majority of the hive is unhappy. . . .

Elephants

9 The elephant matriarch is the leader of her family. Typically, the oldest mother or grandmother in a group of relatives takes on this role. . . .

10 Age, experience, and knowledge mean better leadership. A 2011 study by Karen McComb of the University of Sussex (UK) showed that older matriarchs make the best decisions when faced with the threat of lions. Researchers played back roars of either male or female lions alone or in groups of three. Male lions in a group present the biggest threat, and the oldest matriarchs in the study responded most strongly to these roars, while younger matriarchs were not nearly as consistent.

11 Like baboons, elephants follow a dominance hierarchy.³ But it's not the young, strong males who make it to the top. "The older you are, the more dominant you're likely to be," explains Patrick Chiyo of the University of Notre Dame. If a group with an older matriarch runs into another group, the less dominant group will likely move aside.

The Art of Leadership

12 Being a leader comes with great benefits, like the tastiest food, but it's also risky being at the top. A true leader, whether he's president of the United States or she's an elder elephant, must make good decisions that will benefit the group, or everyone suffers. Making a good decision requires good information, and most of the time the leader doesn't know everything. The group itself often knows more and can make decisions without a leader through collective decision making or "group think."

"Baboon for President! Long Live the Queen Bee!" by Kathryn Hulick, *Odyssey Magazine*, October 2012

³ hierarchy: people, animals, or things in a group organized by rank, class, or order

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 2.

Being the biggest, baddest boy baboon comes with some perks.

Read this dictionary entry.

perk (pûrk) *n.* **1.** an advantage or benefit. **2.** a monetary reward. *v.* **3.** to become lively. **4.** to act in a confident manner.

Which definition of “perk” is used in the sentence?

- A) Definition 1
- B) Definition 2
- C) Definition 3
- D) Definition 4

Item Information	
Title:	Baboon for President! Long Live the Queen Bee!
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
2012 WyCPS Standard:	L.8.4c Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
Item Code:	VH140437

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2015	MC	A	2	706	0.809

Score Analysis					
MC	A*	B	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	80.878	9.348	3.966	5.807	0

Item Notes

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 6.

The better the food is, the longer and more energetically the worker will dance.

Which word could replace “energetically” without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- A) Quickly
- B) Vigorously
- C) Creatively
- D) Productively

Item Information	
Title:	Baboon for President! Long Live the Queen Bee!
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
2012 WyCPS Standard:	L.8.5c Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute).
Item Code:	VH140441

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2015	MC	B	2	656	0.495

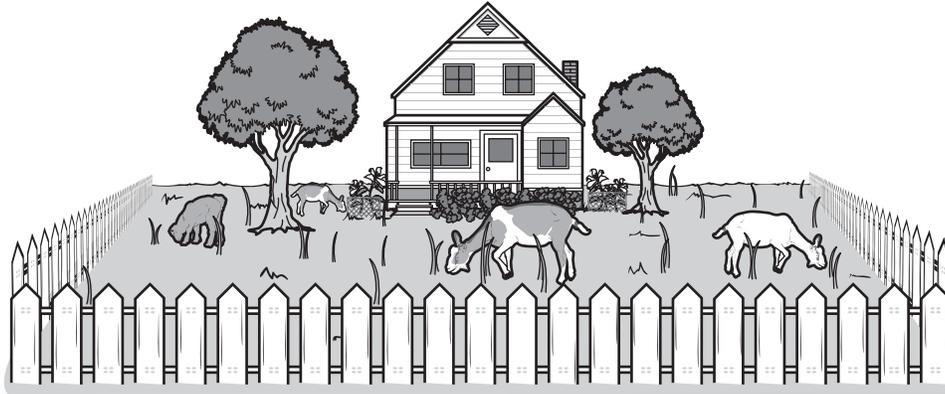
Score Analysis					
MC	A	B*	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	18.75	49.543	10.213	21.341	0.152

Item Notes

Passage Accnum:	VF656630	Title:	Weed Eaters on Hooves	Passage Ext. ID:	WYR28P22
Passage/Text Type:	Literary/Narrative				

Weed Eaters on Hooves

- 1 My dad is an outstanding father—considerate, loving, and lots of fun. He genuinely believes that having good business sense is a critical life skill and the earlier someone develops that ability, the easier life will be. So every now and then he comes up with a plan for starting a business for my sister Amy and me to own and operate. He does not seem concerned that Amy is in sixth grade, and I am in eighth grade.
- 2 When Dad announced his latest idea, starting a mowing business using goats to eat the grass, Amy’s eyes revealed her doubts. I could see she was holding her breath, and her yellow, corkscrew curly hair seemed to pop out even farther than usual. Mom started to giggle.
- 3 I had terrible visions of smelly goats kicking everything within their reach. I like cats and dogs, but the idea of going into business with goats as our partners was making me very uncomfortable. Dad’s plan sounded like a recipe for disaster.
- 4 “But Dad,” I protested, “I don’t know anything about goats. And don’t forget that I already have band practice after school, soccer, lots of homework, and chores.” I could hear my voice getting squeaky as I recited my list of responsibilities.
- 5 “This is an extraordinary opportunity, any businessperson’s dream!” Dad responded. “This is a relatively new idea that’s growing in popularity. Instead of lawn mowers or huge tractor-pulled mowers, the county and the state are using herds of goats to clear overgrown fields and trim grass in public places; townspeople are using them; farmers are using them. There are several goat-mowing businesses already operating in Cheyenne. With summer only three months away, you’ll have time to develop your strategy and be ready to accept your first customers when they need mowers.”
- 6 By the second week in May, we had acquired several goats that spent their days roaming around our property. I was beginning to get comfortable with Dad’s business plan. However, we still had one major problem: no customers.
- 7 The following week, we had our first customer. Mrs. Jonasen, who lives just down the road, wanted some land cleared to prevent grass fires from starting. With goats loaded on the trailer, Dad drove us to Mrs. Jonasen’s property. He helped Amy and me set up the portable fence and unloaded the goats. We all watched them happily chomp away on the brush, weeds, and shrubs inside the fenced area. Amy challenged me to a foot race around the fence as we checked to make sure it was secure. Once Dad was confident the fence was sturdy and no goats could escape, we headed back to our house.



- 8 We had only been home a few minutes when the phone rang. Dad solemnly announced that our Mrs. Jonasen was very unhappy because a goat had managed to slip through the fence and consumed every one of Mrs. Jonasen's prized lilies. Since we had to buy new lilies and plant them for Mrs. Jonasen, we were worried that we would not make a profit.
- 9 During our family business meeting the following week, Amy and I stood tall and held our heads high as we reported that we had earned a profit of \$298.32 after all expenses, including the lilies. We shook hands all around. Then Dad completely shocked us. "I have a buyer for your business. You will have even more money to put aside. Do you want to sell?" Amy's eyes once again widened, and she was holding her breath as her curls seemed to be leaping straight out from her head! Amy and I stared at each other, and I thought, "Goats aren't so smelly, after all." We weren't sure we were ready to give up our new business.
- 10 "Thanks for the offer, Dad, but I think we're going to hang on to this business for a while," Amy said. As they both looked at me for a response, I stared at the goats through our back window. "Sorry, Dad, 'Weed Eaters on Hooves' is not for sale at any price."

00 Read the sentence from Paragraph 7.

We all watched them happily chomp away on the brush, weeds, and shrubs inside the fenced area.

What does the phrase “happily chomp away” suggest about the goats?

- A) They feel alarmed.
- B) They feel excited.
- C) They feel content.
- D) They feel protected.

Item Information	
Title:	Weed Eaters on Hooves
Passage/Text Type:	Literary/Narrative
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
2012 WyCPS Standard:	L.8.5a Interpret figures of speech (e.g. verbal irony, puns) in context.
Item Code:	VF813924

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2014	MC	C	2	657	0.623

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C*	D	Omit
%Choosing	1.065	29.528	62.253	6.697	0.457

Item Notes