

Grade

4

English Language Arts

Assesslet

Informational/Explanatory

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Directions

- Read all the directions for each question carefully and think about the answer.
- This Assesslet contains two passages and five items. Questions 1, 2, and 3 are selected-response items where you choose the one **BEST** answer. Answer each question by filling in the circle **on your answer document**.
- Question 4 is a constructed-response item. Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Question 5 is an extended writing prompt. Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your essay on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Be sure to write your answers in the spaces provided **on the answer document**.

Passage A: Ponce de Leon (1460-1521)

Imagine you had the opportunity to sail the seas with Christopher Columbus! That is exactly what happened to Ponce de Leon in 1493. He heard of Columbus's discovery of lands far across the sea and decided to join him in his further explorations of the New World.



His voyage with Columbus reached the Dominican Republic. Instead of returning to Spain with Columbus, Ponce de Leon decided to stay and continue searching for gold in the New World. He was later appointed governor of the Dominican Republic.

The king encouraged Ponce de Leon to find more land and gold. The next adventure took him to the coast of Florida in April 1513; he named it "Pascua de Florida", or Feast of Flowers, in honor of Palm Sunday. Following the Gulf Stream, a powerful current of water, he and his shipmates traveled up the coast of Florida. The discovery of this route would later become important, allowing Spanish ships to travel easily between Spain and the Americas. Ponce de Leon then returned to Puerto Rico.

Passage B: The Native Guide

Captain Ponce de Leon told us there were challenges ahead.

Mosquitoes were devouring us.

I had known the Captain for some time, and he spoke of gold with special zeal. However, the Calusa Indians were not going to give up their land easily.



The tribe must have headed into the forest that morning. The Captain pushed us hard to make it to the edge of the tree line. The Captain and his team set up camp there at the edge.

Now, I sit alone in the night. The moon looks down on us, as open as a child's face. It is our last meal out in the clear. Tomorrow, we enter the forest to face whatever is going to happen.

1. Which sentence _____?

- A. _____
- B. The Gulf Stream became an important naval discovery.
- C. Ponce de Leon was killed by natives with a poison arrow.
- D. Ponce de Leon was a Spanish explorer who was determined to find gold and wealth.

2. Which of the following _____ find gold in his explorations?

- A. He conquered Puerto Rico by force.
- B. _____
- C. He knew the king of Spain was encouraging him to discover gold.
- D. He and his men attacked the peaceful natives that occupied Florida.

3. Which statement **BEST** describes the reason why Ponce de Leon became a famous Spanish explorer?

- A. He was an experienced soldier.
- B. He was not interested in searching for gold.
- C. He was named the governor of Florida by the King of Spain.
- D. He was the first European to land on North America and to discover Florida.

4. The main purpose of Passage A is to inform about Florida. How does the main idea of Passage B differ from Passage A? Support your answer with one detail from Passage A and one detail from Passage B.

Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document**.

5. Write an informational essay explaining how **Christopher Columbus** found gold in his quest for wealth. In your essay be sure to:

- Include at least two examples from Passage A to support your answer.
- Include at least two examples from Passage B to support your answer.
- Explain how these examples show his determination.

Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your essay on the lines provided **on your answer document**.