

Grade

7

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: Concerns About Water Supply in Parts of Africa

Lack of clean water is one of the most critical challenges facing some African countries. Limited freshwater also leads to environmental issues that are harmful to the world's ecological balance.



Children in some African counties often miss school because of illnesses resulting from unclean water and poor sanitation practices. More than 85% of all diseases in African children are caused by using unclean water. The most common diseases transmitted through its water sources are Hepatitis and Typhoid Fever.

Other Causes of the Water Crisis

Urbanization and oil spills are also factors that contribute to the water crisis in parts of Africa. As more and more people move closer to populated cities, the food supply demand grows. Farming and agriculture have increased, creating the need for more fertilizers that are damaging the water supply.

A person can only live 3-4 days without clean water. Making water safer is a key challenge facing some African countries.

Passage B: The Story of Etana

There is no time for school again today! Etana wakes up very early, just before sunrise. She heads out the door like she does three times a day. Her village has no running water, so Etana and the other women and children must make a daily trek to get water. Etana grabs her “jerry can” and hoists it above her head. She is on her way to the only water source she knows, which is located several miles away.

The sun is high and the temperature is hot. It takes her about an hour to reach the watering hole. The watering hole is a small muddy hole in a mountain. The water hole is deep and narrow, with steep sides. There are no trees or bushes to shade the hole. The water is very hot, and it is very muddy. Etana has to be careful not to fall in. She has to be quick to get the water before it gets too hot to drink.

She notices a cow standing nearby, waiting for his turn to drink from the watering hole. After filling her can with water, it becomes extremely heavy; she has to stop and rest many times. The jerry can may weigh as much as 40 pounds when it is filled with water.

The cow is very old and has a long neck. It is very thin and looks like it has been waiting a long time. Etana has to be careful not to get too close to the cow. The cow is very aggressive and will attack if it feels threatened. Etana has to be quick to get the water before the cow gets to it.

Because she has to make this trip two more times today, there is no time to go to school. Etana wants to be a doctor when she grows up. This is important to Etana because she wants to help the people in her community. She aspires to learn about ways to help the people make the water safer to use. Her dream of being a doctor will have to wait; maybe tomorrow she will be able to go back to school.

1. Which **main idea** describes the central idea of Passages A and B?
- A. **Water is essential for life.**
 - B. Accessing clean water is a challenge that some African countries face.
 - C. Women and children often travel great distances for clean drinking water.
 - D. Polluted water containing bacteria is the leading cause of death in children.
2. What is one way **the governments of some African countries** could make water safer?
- A. grow more plants in the forest
 - B. increase farming and agriculture
 - C. **reduce the amount of water used in homes**
 - D. encourage more tribal people to hunt animals for food

3. Which factor affects **the ecological balance** in Africa?

- A. **People do not use enough water.**
- B. Waste is often dumped into Africa's waterways.
- C. Children do not go to school; therefore, their education suffers.
- D. Diseases like Hepatitis and Typhoid Fever are transmitted through contaminated water.

4. What is one reason **many of the world's poorest people live in** African countries? Support your reason with at least one example from Passage A and one example from Passage B.

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

5. Write an informational essay describing the consequences of the _____

_____ In your essay, be sure to:

- Cite at least two examples from Passage A.
- Cite at least two examples from Passage B.
- Explain how these examples illustrate the consequences of the water crisis.

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