

Local Assessment Item Bank

**Reading**

**Grade 5**

**Informational Text Assessment 3**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*This assessment is designed to provide information about reading comprehension skills. It contains a reading passage with multiple choice, short answer, and constructed response items. Read the passage and then mark the bubble with the correct answer on the multiple choice items. Write responses to the short answer and constructed response items in the box provided.*

*Refer back to the passage as necessary. You may mark up the passage in any way that is helpful in answering the items.*

Read this passage about a national park in Florida. Then answer the questions that follow.

## A Park in Danger

Jeannie Borsch

Everglades National Park is the most endangered national park in America. The purpose of making a national park is to protect the plants and animals that live there. But things that happen outside the park also affect the life within it.

Everglades National Park is part of a much larger area known as the Everglades. At one time, water flowed freely in the Everglades. During the rainy season, water would fill the Kissimmee River. Then it flowed into Lake Okeechobee. Once the lake became full, water spilled over onto the flatland. From there a shallow sheet of water moved slowly down the peninsula. Then it emptied into Florida Bay. This shallow sheet of water was the Everglades River. It was only a few inches deep in some spots. But it was up to 50 miles wide and over 100 miles long.

The Everglades area is home to many plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Today, some of these plants and animals are in danger of disappearing forever.

- 4 The main reason is that the Everglades is no longer a free-flowing river. Canals have been built to drain most of the shallow river. People have also built a dam to hold back water from Lake Okeechobee. Most of the water from the Everglades is trapped in manmade lakes. Cutting off the flow of water into Everglades National Park has done more harm than good. Now it threatens the wildlife in the park.

Water pollution is another reason some plants and animals are disappearing. Years ago, large areas of the



Everglades were drained and turned into farmland. Today the fertilizers used on crops are polluting the water. The “river of grass” is slowly disappearing. The tall sawgrass that once grew in the Everglades River is being replaced by cattails. Many other kinds of plants are disappearing. Animals that depend on these plants for food no longer have anything to eat.

The problems facing Everglades National Park are very serious. But there is still hope. Work is already underway to save the Everglades. The federal government, the state of Florida, and several other groups are all working together to try to undo the damage. But can they do it? Can they save the Everglades before it is too late?

1 In the first paragraph, the word endangered means

- Ⓐ without danger.
- Ⓑ full of danger.
- Ⓒ in danger.
- Ⓓ more dangerous.

2 Look at the words in the box.

river lake canal _____
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Which word belongs in the box?

- Ⓐ animal
- Ⓑ farmland
- Ⓒ fertilizer
- Ⓓ bay

3 In paragraph 4, a free-flowing river means one that

- Ⓐ has little or none of its original wildlife.
- Ⓑ has no structures that get in the way of the water.
- Ⓒ is protected for the public within a national park.
- Ⓓ is drained and turned into land for farming and building.

4 According to this passage, how have canals been used in the Everglades?

- Ⓐ to drain the Everglades River
- Ⓑ to transport people between cities
- Ⓒ to bring water to farmlands
- Ⓓ to create a gigantic “river of grass”

5 Using information from the passage, explain how water used to move through the Everglades.

Blank writing area with horizontal lines for student response.

6 What is the **most** likely reason that cattails are now common in the Everglades?

- Ⓐ They can stand up to pollution better than sawgrass.
- Ⓑ Farmers are planting them for fertilizer.
- Ⓒ They survive better than sawgrass in very wet conditions.
- Ⓓ Government workers are using them to restore the Everglades.

7 What is the main idea of the last paragraph? Use information from the text to support your answer.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

- 8 Which detail **best** supports the author’s assertion that “there is still hope”?
- Ⓐ The Everglades are home to many plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.
  - Ⓑ Most of the water in the Everglades is trapped in manmade lakes.
  - Ⓒ The tall sawgrass that once grew in the Everglades River is being replaced by cattails.
  - Ⓓ Work is already underway to save the Everglades.

- 9 According to the map, in which direction is Lake Okeechobee from Florida Bay?
- Ⓐ east
  - Ⓑ west
  - Ⓒ north
  - Ⓓ south

- 10 The author’s purpose in writing this passage was to
- Ⓐ persuade people to visit the Everglades before it is too late.
  - Ⓑ explain the importance of the Everglades and the problems it faces.
  - Ⓒ describe the beauty of the Everglades in different times and seasons.
  - Ⓓ entertain readers with exciting adventures in the Everglades.