



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Leading the Drive to Top 5!

PAWS Reading Grade 8

Released Items With Data

2014

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Reading Released Items with Data Introduction Page / Data Definitions

This Released Items with Data document provides a subset of items from the 2013 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:	VF385485	Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest	Passage Ext. ID:	WYR18P12
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository				

Spirit Bears of the Northwest



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- 1 The Great Bear Rainforest of the Canadian Northwest is the largest unspoiled coastal rainforest in the world. It spans 250 miles of glacier-capped mountains and mist-covered, dense forest along Canada's Pacific coastline and neighboring islands. Deep within the exotic confines of the rainforest are towering trees that have stood for well over a thousand years. Inhabiting the rainforest are wild animals, such as cougars, wolves, eagles, grizzly bears, and black bears. Also in this secluded environment is a species that is exclusive to the region: the rare Kermode bears. Native inhabitants call them spirit bears. They are a subspecies of black bears that features a highly distinctive genetic characteristic. They have a coat of thick, white fur, much like that of a polar bear. Their coats are not pure white but more off-white, like the color of oatmeal.
- 2 The Kermode bear is named after Francis Kermode, a Canadian friend of W.T. Hornaday. Hornaday, a New York zoologist who conducted the first studies into the origins of the white bears, discovered that white bears are not albinos¹. They are actually black bears that carry a recessive² gene. The offspring of any two black bears that carry the recessive gene may potentially be Kermode bears.

¹ albino: any living being of light color and pinkish eyes, with an absence of the gene that allows for pigmentation, or darkening, of skin or hair

² recessive: being secondary, hidden, masked, or in the background

- 3 Of approximately 1,200 black bears that live in the Great Bear Rainforest, only about 200 are white. On the mainland, about one out of every seventy black bears gives birth to a white cub. On the islands, however, the number of white cubs born is significantly higher—as many as one in three. Scientists speculate that the spirit bear population is higher on the islands because a larger number of black bears residing there carry the recessive gene.
- 4 Located in the heart of this rainforest, Hartley Bay, British Columbia, is home to approximately 180 members of the Gitga’at First Nation, one of 14 ancestral tribes that have lived in the coastal regions of Canada and Alaska for thousands of years. Helen Clifton, a leader among the Gitga’at, explains how her clan has shown respect toward spirit bears for generations. As Clifton recalls, “Our people never hunted the white bear.” When fur traders moved into the territory in the late eighteenth century, the Gitga’at tribe protected spirit bears by never speaking of their existence. Thus, the potential threat to the species from fur traders hunting black bears in the area was reduced.
- 5 Even today, local tribe members keep watch over the bears. Clifton says no one speaks of spirit bears at the dinner table. She cautions the younger people in the tribe not to broadcast any sighting of spirit bears over the shortwave radios unless they use the native word for spirit bear, moksgm’ol, which outsiders will not understand.
- 6 By contrast, Terrace, British Columbia, about sixty miles northeast of Hartley Bay, has publicly adopted the spirit bear as a mascot and features the white bear on its city flag. Local artists participated in decorating life-sized statues of spirit bears throughout the community. The province of British Columbia has declared the spirit bear as its official mammal. Moreover, Canada celebrated the spirit bear as one of the three mascots of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.
- 7 Life-sized replicas may represent the only spirit bears that people living in the rainforest ever see. Even within the rainforest, spirit bear sightings are unusual and unforgettable. Full-grown spirit bears weigh between 150 and 300 pounds and may stand to a height of seven feet. The combination of their striking appearance and extreme rarity has marked the spirit bear as a special animal in this part of the world. Over time, these creatures have become representative of both the people who live here and, to some degree, even the delicate rainforest itself. Today, spirit bears serve as a symbol for the many unique qualities that distinguish this extraordinary region.

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 1 of the passage.

Also in this secluded environment is a species that is exclusive to the region: the rare Kermode bears.

What does the word “secluded” mean in this sentence?

- A) genial
- B) limited
- C) privileged
- D) remote

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
Item Code:	VF497333

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	D	1	669	0.662

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C	D*	Omit
%Choosing	4.634	22.272	6.876	66.218	0

Item Notes

00 What does Helen Clifton mean when she says that “no one speaks of spirit bears at the dinner table”?

- A) Talking about spirit bears when eating is disrespectful to the bears.
- B) Discussing the spirit bear is confined to within the local tribe.
- C) Not mentioning the spirit bear is a way to protect it from outsiders.
- D) Sighting a spirit bear is only broadcast through radio.

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Key Ideas and Details
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
Item Code:	VF497339

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	C	2	669	0.632

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C*	D	Omit
%Choosing	17.19	16.143	63.229	3.438	0

Item Notes

00

Why was a spirit bear selected to serve as a mascot at the Winter Olympic Games?

- A) The Kermode bear is a great source of pride for northern tribes.
- B) Fur traders heard about the Kermode bears over the shortwave radio.
- C) The Canadian government declared the rainforest a national preserve.
- D) The bear population expanded and now includes Terrace, British Columbia.

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Key Ideas and Details
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
Item Code:	VF497342

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	A	2	669	0.746

Score Analysis					
MC	A*	B	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	74.589	1.943	10.613	12.706	0.149

Item Notes

00 Which evidence best supports the claim that the Great Bear Rainforest is unspoiled?

- A) It includes glacier-capped mountains.
- B) It provides shelter for a large number of wild animals.
- C) It contains a dense forest of trees thousands of years old.
- D) It spans hundreds of miles along a mist-covered coastline.

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Key Ideas and Details
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.
Item Code:	VF497347

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	C	3	669	0.474

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C*	D	Omit
%Choosing	10.912	23.916	47.384	17.339	0.448

Item Notes

00 Which conclusion about the Kermode bear is supported by information in the passage?

- A) Kermode bears are easily located on the islands.
- B) The Gitga'at people continue to protect the Kermode bears.
- C) Survival of the Kermode bears depends on a healthier diet.
- D) Fur traders no longer hunt Kermode bears in the forest.

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Key Ideas and Details
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.
Item Code:	VF497352

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	B	3	669	0.828

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B*	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	5.979	82.81	3.587	7.623	0

Item Notes

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 7 of the passage.

Life-sized replicas may represent the only spirit bears that people living in the rainforest ever see.

What does “replicas” mean?

- A) twins
- B) sources
- C) portraits
- D) models

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
Item Code:	VF497341

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	D	1	649	0.787

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C	D*	Omit
%Choosing	12.173	3.852	5.239	78.737	0

Item Notes

00 Which sentence from the passage provides the best evidence that Kermode bears are highly regarded?

- A) Inhabiting the rainforest are wild animals, such as cougars, wolves, eagles, grizzly bears, and black bears.
- B) Helen Clifton, a leader among the Gitga'at, explains how her clan has shown respect toward spirit bears for generations.
- C) Thus, the potential threat to the species from fur traders hunting black bears in the area was reduced.
- D) Even within the rainforest, spirit bear sightings are unusual and unforgettable.

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Key Ideas and Details
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.
Item Code:	VF497351

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	B	3	649	0.394

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B*	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	6.626	39.445	16.179	37.442	0.308

Item Notes

00 How does the author organize the passage?

- A) By providing a main idea with supporting details
- B) By posing a problem and providing a solution
- C) By comparing and contrasting several topics
- D) By exploring the reason an event happens

Item Information	
Title:	Spirit Bears of the Northwest
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.8.5 Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
Item Code:	VF497345

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	A	3	649	0.641

Score Analysis					
MC	A*	B	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	64.099	7.858	13.713	13.405	0.924

Item Notes

