



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Leading the Drive to Top 5!

PAWS Reading Grade 7

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)

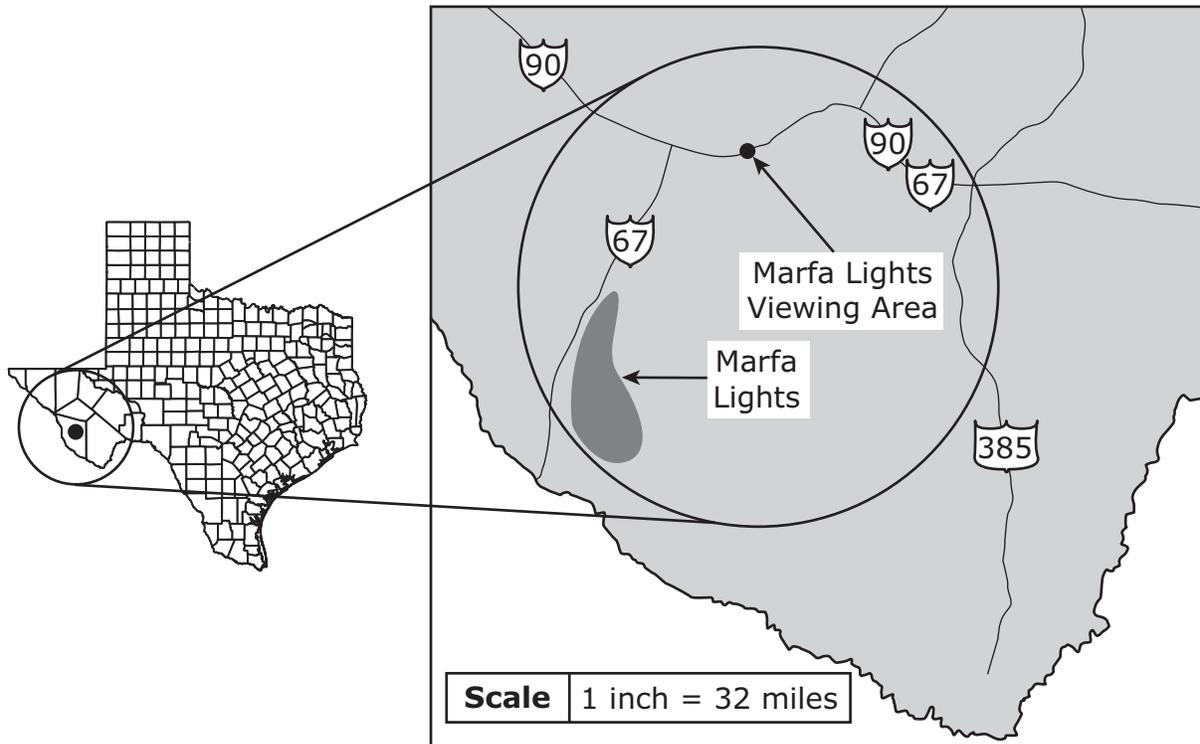
Item Notes: Area where user can make notes

Passage Accnum: VF497449	Title: The Mysterious Marfa Lights	Passage Ext. ID: WYR17P07
Passage/Text Type: Informational/Expository		

The Mysterious Marfa Lights

- 1 The desert plains near the tiny town of Marfa are known for their distant, lonely splendor. Javelina,¹ prickly pear cacti, tarantulas, and even odd-looking roadrunners are not unusual in the vast, dusty landscape of West Texas. Although visitors might find these sights to be unusual, most residents of this region would not even blink at seeing a wild boar or a hairy spider. However, one occurrence in this part of the Lone Star State captivates residents and visitors alike: the mysterious Marfa lights.
- 2 The phenomenon was first documented in 1883. Robert Ellison, a cowboy who was driving cattle in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas, first thought the strange lights in the distance might be Apache campfires. He never found the source of the lights twinkling in the distance, even after hours of searching. Ellison had to give up; the cattle he was herding began to stampede!
- 3 The lights appear today just as Ellison described them more than a century ago, as lights that vary in size. Sometimes, the Marfa lights softly glow. At other times, they suddenly intensify into bright points of light. Observed as white, red, green, blue, yellow, or orange, the lights randomly divide and move quickly away from one another, flitting about like fireflies on the desert horizon. People can see them from thirty to forty miles away.
- 4 During the years, researchers have documented more than seventy-five different explanations for the harmless but eerie Marfa lights. Investigators have attributed the lights to reflected light from headlamps of cars and trucks on local highways, but this theory does not explain how the lights appeared before any roads were ever built. It has been suggested that the lights are from the coats of rabbits that are being chased by predators. These coats are covered in a luminescent dust, which would explain why the lights are so random and unpredictable, but not how high they ascend—or even where the glowing dust might come from. Some scientists suggest that the lights are reflections from mica, a reflective rock common in the region, but this theory does not identify the source of the reflected lights. The lights could be caused by swamp gas, but the land is arid, not damp and humid. Another explanation involves electrostatic charges in the atmosphere, but the lights last too long for that theory to be valid.
- 5 So far, one of the most widely accepted explanations is that warm and cool layers of the atmosphere mix, which bends light across a large distance. This is one theory that does not seem to have any explanations to the contrary.

¹ javelina: wild, hooved mammals that resemble pigs



- 6 For more than a hundred years, Texans have enjoyed speculating about the source of the lights. Whatever their cause, the lights are now a popular tourist attraction. The Texas Department of Transportation recently established a public viewing site for the Marfa lights on Highway 90 about eight miles east of the town of Marfa. There, on dark Texas nights, tourists can park their cars and delight in watching the lights for hours. Whether the mystery is ever solved, one thing seems certain: the Marfa lights will continue to generate more theories about the source of these lights and fascinate curious tourists for many years to come.

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 1 of the passage.

Although visitors might find these sights to be unusual, most residents of this region would not even blink at seeing a wild boar or a hairy spider.

What does the writer mean by using the phrase “would not even blink” in the sentence?

- A) The residents are fond of boars and spiders.
- B) The residents are accustomed to seeing strange animals.
- C) The residents rarely see visitors to their area.
- D) The residents simply stare at the local wildlife.

Item Information	
Title:	The Mysterious Marfa Lights
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
Item Code:	VF497711

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	B	3	670	0.661

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B*	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	14.179	66.119	7.164	12.388	0.149

Item Notes

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 4 of the passage.

These coats are covered in a luminescent dust, which would explain why the lights are so random and unpredictable, but not how high they ascend—or even where the glowing dust might come from.

Which word is a synonym for “luminescent”?

- A) visible
- B) radiant
- C) multicolored
- D) breathtaking

Item Information	
Title:	The Mysterious Marfa Lights
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
Item Code:	VF497686

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	B	2	670	0.424

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B*	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	19.701	42.388	31.94	5.821	0.149

Item Notes

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 4 of the passage.

During the years, researchers have documented more than seventy-five different explanations for the harmless but eerie Marfa lights.

What does this description suggest about the lights?

- A) The popularity of the lights will fade in the future.
- B) The cause of the lights will be discovered soon.
- C) They are interesting but not worrisome.
- D) They are a threatening recent event.

Item Information	
Title:	The Mysterious Marfa Lights
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
Item Code:	VF497819

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	C	2	670	0.675

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C*	D	Omit
%Choosing	7.91	21.045	67.463	3.284	0.299

Item Notes

00 How has the Texas Department of Transportation responded to the public's increased interest in the lights?

- A) It has confined tourist traffic to a specific area near Marfa.
- B) It has encouraged tourists to visit Marfa and watch the show.
- C) It has established an official viewing site for tourists east of Marfa.
- D) It has limited tourists to visiting Marfa during scheduled viewing times.

Item Information	
Title:	The Mysterious Marfa Lights
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Key Ideas and Details
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
Item Code:	VF497803

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	C	2	670	0.639

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C*	D	Omit
%Choosing	11.343	19.403	63.881	4.328	1.045

Item Notes

00 Read this sentence from Paragraph 1 of the passage.

However, one occurrence in this part of the Lone Star State captivates residents and visitors alike: the mysterious Marfa lights.

Which is the best synonym for “captivates” in this sentence?

- A) inspires
- B) irritates
- C) fascinates
- D) distracts

Item Information	
Title:	The Mysterious Marfa Lights
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
Item Code:	VF497701

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	C	2	668	0.719

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C*	D	Omit
%Choosing	12.575	5.389	71.856	10.18	0

Item Notes

00 Which idea from the passage is best supported by Paragraph 3?

- A) The lights constantly change in unpredictable ways.
- B) The lights attract a variety of wildlife to the site.
- C) The lights have been feared for many years.
- D) The lights are visible only on clear nights.

Item Information	
Title:	The Mysterious Marfa Lights
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Craft and Structure
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.7.5 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.
Item Code:	VF497794

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	A	2	668	0.796

Score Analysis					
MC	A*	B	C	D	Omit
%Choosing	79.641	8.383	7.784	4.192	0

Item Notes

00 How does the author support the idea that many people are interested in the Marfa lights?

- A) By telling about the first recorded sighting of them
- B) By sharing the location where the lights have been sighted
- C) By explaining that a viewing area has been established
- D) By offering a description of their colors and patterns of movement

Item Information	
Title:	The Mysterious Marfa Lights
Passage/Text Type:	Informational/Expository
2012 WyCPS Domain:	Key Ideas and Details
2012 WyCPS Standard:	RI.7.3 Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).
Item Code:	VF497732

Admin:	Item Type:	Correct Answer:	Item Dok:	Total N-count:	Pvalue/Mean Score:
Spring 2013	MC	C	3	668	0.594

Score Analysis					
MC	A	B	C*	D	Omit
%Choosing	9.581	11.826	59.431	19.012	0.15

Item Notes

