

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

**GRADE 4**  
**Reading Language Arts**  
**STAAR Alternate 2**

**Administered April 2023**

**RELEASED**



# READING LANGUAGE ARTS



# A Fruit of Many Fruits



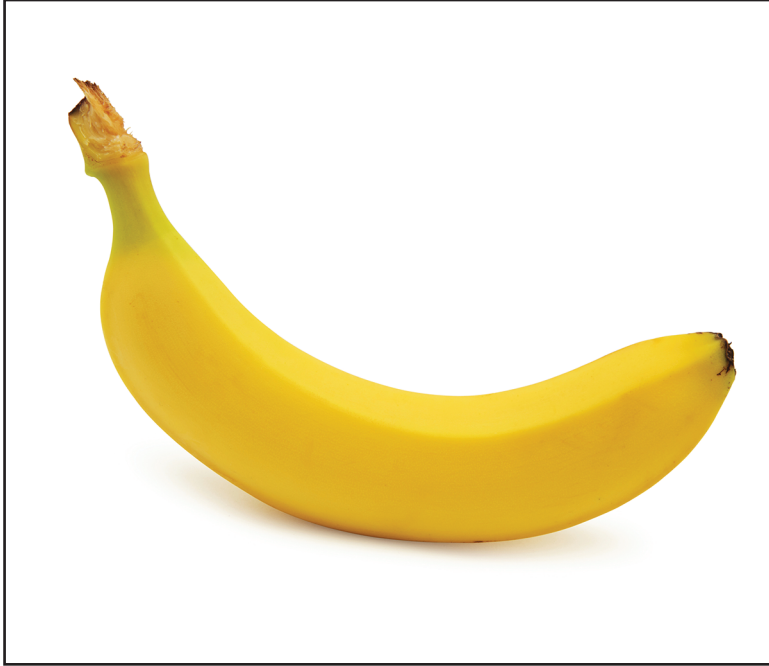
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Pineapples are fruits that are rough and scratchy on the outside but sweet and juicy on the inside.



Pineapples are second to bananas as the most popular fruit in the world. A pineapple is not one fruit. It is many small fruits attached together around a core in the center.

2b



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3a

People in Europe first learned about pineapples after Christopher Columbus found them in South America. They were grown by the people who lived there, but no one else had ever tasted them. Columbus took pineapples back to Spain. People thought that the pineapple looked like a pinecone and tasted like a delicious fruit. Over time the two ideas came together, and it got the name "pineapple."





Pineapples look like a pinecone but taste like a fruit.

Pineapple plants are grown by people in South America.

Pineapples were named after Christopher Columbus.

4a

Today pineapples are eaten by people all over the world. And pineapples grow in many warm countries around the world. But the only state in the United States where pineapples are grown is Hawaii. A farmer named James Dole started growing and selling pineapples there more than 100 years ago. His business grew and grew. Today most of the pineapples we buy in stores are Dole pineapples.



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4a

When you eat pineapple, you are doing good things for your body. Pineapple gives you vitamin C and other things that are important for your health. So even though it tastes sweet like a dessert, pineapple is also good for you to eat!



*Today pineapples are eaten by people all over the world.*

*A farmer named James Dole started growing and selling pineapples there more than 100 years ago.*

*Pineapple gives you vitamin C and other things that are important for your health.*

# Texas Woodpeckers



No matter where you live in Texas, you are not far from a place where one of about 14 kinds of woodpeckers can be seen.

6a



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Woodpeckers are often given names that make it easier to figure out what kind of woodpecker they are. For example, the redheaded woodpecker has red feathers on the top of its head. The yellow-bellied sapsucker has some red feathers also but it gets its name from the yellow feathers on its belly.



6b



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Most woodpeckers that live in Texas are smaller than 10 inches long. Often, they have black-and-white feathers on their body and yellow or red patches on their head.



Most woodpeckers spend all their time hanging on to the side of a tree trunk and eating the bugs there. They have four toes on each foot. Two toes face the front, and two face the back.

These toes help the woodpecker hold on to the tree. The woodpecker's long, stiff tail feathers also help the woodpecker hold itself in place.

Woodpeckers do not fly far and only make short flights through the air.

7a



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Woodpeckers do not have pretty voices like songbirds. In the spring, the male birds call loudly as they peck on wood or sometimes on metal. At other times of the year, woodpeckers stay quiet, except for all the pecking!

Woodpeckers can peck up to 20 times each second. They peck between 8,000 and 12,000 times each day.





Woodpeckers have black-and-white feathers on their body.

Woodpeckers have four toes on each foot and long tail feathers.

Woodpeckers peck between 8,000 and 12,000 times each day.



© Skipper Pappy D/Shutterstock.com

A woodpecker uses its pointed beak to hammer a small hole into the tree bark to hunt for insects. Then the woodpecker's long, sticky tongue catches the insect it has found and pulls it out.

As a woodpecker taps on a tree with its beak, small pieces of wood fly out. The woodpecker has special feathers that keep it from breathing in the tiny wood pieces.

Woodpeckers also tap into trees to make nests. They dig a small hole and build a nest, where the female will lay her eggs. About two weeks later, the eggs hatch and the babies are born.



© Oakdalecat/Dreamstime.com

The best places to find woodpeckers are in East Texas, where there are lots of trees. But if you have trees in your yard and would like to see woodpeckers, put out a bird feeder. Fill it with fruit or nuts. You may soon have a colorful woodpecker tapping outside your window!



A woodpecker uses its beak to create holes in trees for its nests.

A woodpecker uses its beak to keep from breathing in tiny wood pieces.

A woodpecker uses its beak to find fruit and nuts in backyard bird feeders.







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Flamingos are large birds with long legs and long necks that live where they can wade in shallow waters.

10a



© Alexandar/Shutterstock.com

To eat, flamingos put their bills upside down in the water and suck water into their mouths. Then they pump the water out of the sides of their mouths. The tiny plants and animals from the water that stay in their mouths make a delicious meal?



The tiny plants and animals from the water that stay in their mouths make a delicious meal,

The tiny plants and animals from the water that stay in their mouths make a delicious meal.

11a



Flamingos can stand on one legs and hide the other legs inside their feathers.

Flamingos can stand on one legs and hide the other leg inside their feather.

Flamingos can stand on one leg and hide the other leg inside their feathers.

12a



© val lawless/Shutterstock.com



Flamingos use mud to make nests that look like mounds. At the top of the mound, the female flamingo lays one egg.



After about 30 days, the egg hatches.

12a



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The parents make mud nests that look like mounds.

The parents take turns sitting on the egg to keep it warm.

The egg hatches after about 30 days.



# Friendship Bracelets



© Georgy Dzyura/Shutterstock.com

Lizzie has many friendship bracelets wrapped around her wrists.



© Tatiana/stock.adobe.com

Lizzie makes friendship bracelets.

She needs scissors and many bright colors of embroidery thread.

She need scissors and many bright colors of embroidery thread.



© ellinnur/stock.adobe.com

Lizzie uses a cardboard circle to hold the thread as she weave.



weaving

weaves

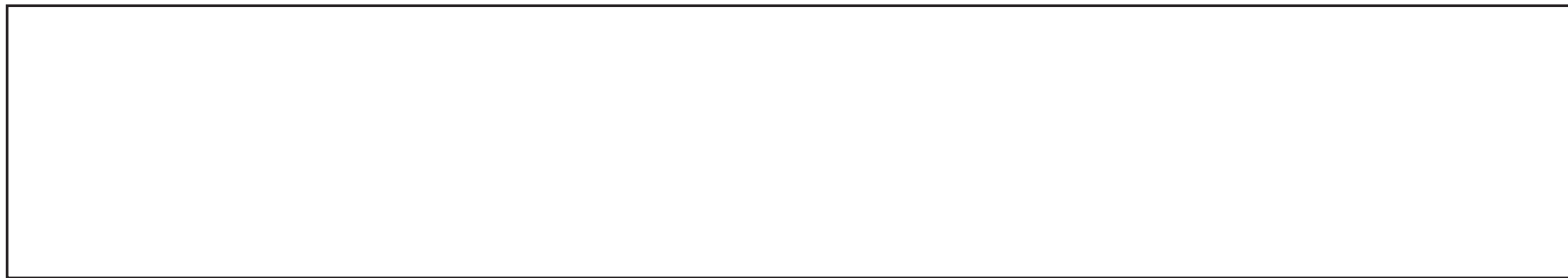
weaved

16a



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Friendship Day was just a few weeks away. Lizzie wanted to make a friendship bracelet to give to each of her friends. She selected each friend's favorite colors. Lizzie carefully wove the threads into a pattern much like she had learned to braid her hair. Then Lizzie tied the ends together.





She could hardly wait for  
Friendship Day to pass them out,

She could hardly wait for  
Friendship Day to pass them out?

She could hardly wait for  
Friendship Day to pass them out!



# Just the Right Move



Ellie is eating lunch with her mom, dad, brother Quinn, and baby sister Kiera and discussing what to do for Family Friday Night.



“What do you want to do for Family Friday Night?” Dad asks.



Quinn votes for picking up pizza. Ellie wants to stay out late, but that will be a problem because Kiera needs to be in her crib and asleep by eight o'clock.



Quinn

Ellie

"I've got an idea, but it's a surprise," Dad says.

That night, the family piles into the front and back seats of Dad's pickup truck. Quinn and Ellie can hear Dad loading things into the back of the truck.

"Where are we going?" Ellie asks. He says nothing, even when Quinn asks the same question five minutes later.

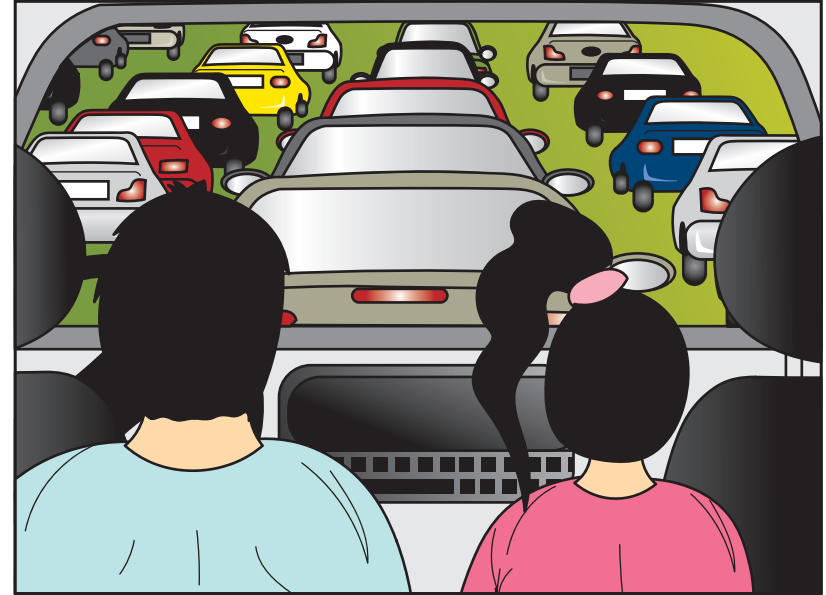


“Okay, kids, close your eyes,” Dad says. As Quinn and Ellie do what Dad says, they hear Mom giggle. “And keep them closed!”

The car stops, and Dad speaks to someone. Then he drives in a way that seems like he is driving through a parking lot. Finally, he stops the car.

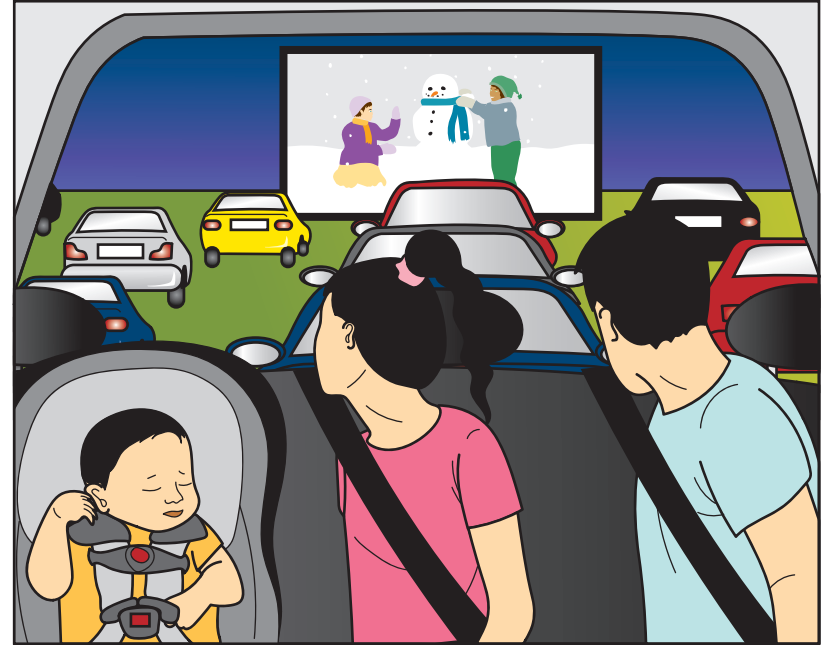
"Okay," he says.  
"We're here, and  
you can open your  
eyes."

Quinn and Ellie  
look up through the  
windshield. All they  
can see are rows  
and rows of cars in  
front of them.



"Turn around,"  
Mom says.

Quinn and Ellie  
turn to look out the  
back window and  
see a huge movie  
screen at the edge  
of the parking lot.  
"A drive-in movie!"  
they shout  
together.





Dad takes the family for a ride in his truck.

Dad takes the family to a drive-in movie.

Dad takes the family to watch the sunset.

Dad drops the tailgate so that Quinn and Ellie can climb into the flatbed of the pickup.

"It's a double feature," Mom says.  
"Two movies in one night!"

Ellie is happy to find out that they might not get home until midnight.

“What about Kiera’s bedtime?” Ellie asks.



Mom holds up Kiera's pajamas.  
"After we eat, I'll put her in these,  
and she'll fall asleep right here," Mom  
says, patting a folded quilt.

Dad hurries over to the food area to pick up pizza and soft drinks. He returns just as the first movie starts. When the temperature drops and the air gets colder, they cuddle together under the blankets as they watch the movie on the huge outdoor screen. The second movie doesn't end until midnight, but Ellie can't keep her eyes open that long.

20a



Everyone thinks that it was the best Family Friday Night ever! Quinn gets his pizza. Kiera falls asleep right at eight o'clock. Ellie gets to stay out really late—even though she may not have been awake the whole time!





Ellie is comfortable sitting in the back of Dad's truck.

Ellie is excited to be out late and not get home until after midnight.

Ellie is relieved that Kiera won't miss her eight o'clock bedtime.



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Printed in the USA

ISD37526