



Released Items

Grade 5 ELA-Reading

AzMERIT

Updated January 2019

Prepared by the Arizona Department of Education and the American Institutes for Research®

About the Released Items

The *AzMERIT Released Items* provides details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for released AzMERIT test items.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:

- Domain
- Cluster
- Content Standard
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK)
- Static presentation of the item
- Static presentation of student response field (when appropriate)
- Answer key, rubric or exemplar
- Applicable score point(s) for each item
- Option rationales (when applicable)

The items included in this guide are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking the computer-based test for AzMERIT Grade 5 ELA-Reading.

Grade 5 ELA–Reading Released Items

Passage(s):

Plenty to Do at the Zoo

by Rachel Young

- 1 Can't wait to start that homework? No? But what if you were stuck in an empty room with no books, no toys, no TV or computer, not even a copy of *Ask*? "Maybe then homework wouldn't seem so bad," says Steve Ross of the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.
- 2 With keepers to feed them, vets to cure them, and no predators to eat them, animals in a zoo usually live much longer than animals in the wild. Zoo life is safe, but it can also be boring.
- 3 In the wild, survival is a full-time job, what with finding food, taking care of babies, and steering clear of all the things that might want to eat you. Compared with their wild cousins, says one zoo veterinarian, zoo animals are unemployed.
- 4 Scientists observing animals in their natural environments realized that some zoo animals were doing all sorts of unnatural things those species don't do in the wild. Tigers paced back and forth endlessly. Elephants bobbed their heads up and down. . . . Monkeys groomed to the point of giving themselves sores. These are signs of boredom and stress. And scientists have learned that being stressed out can actually make animals, and people, sick.
- 5 Giving zoo animals food and shelter isn't enough to keep them healthy. They also need something to do. These days, problems like pacing are less common because zoos try to make life interesting for the animals that live there, with habitats, games, and even toys that encourage natural skills and behaviors. These things are just as important for the animals' good health as the proper diet or a visit from the vet.

Work for Your Food

- 6 Tomatoey and sweet, the smell of ketchup wafts from inside a big artificial termite mound in the corner of the ape habitat at Lincoln Park Zoo. One chimpanzee is hungry for a taste. He grabs a piece of hay and tries to poke it into a small hole in the mound, but the hay is too limp and flexible. Frustrated, the chimpanzee presses his lips against the hole and reaches in with his tongue. Again, no luck. The hole is too deep and the ketchup too far away. Finally, he grabs a branch and goes to work, ripping off leaves and shredding bark until he has a narrow stick that just fits in the hole. When he pulls the stick out, the end is slathered with ketchup. Success! He slurps up the treat and goes back for more.
- 7 In the wild, chimpanzees spend more than half their time foraging for food. They fish for termites (not ketchup) and sometimes roam 7 miles (11 km) a day to look for bugs, leaves, and other morsels.
- 8 But what takes all day in the forest could take five minutes at the zoo: once the keeper plunks down a plate of fruit and monkey chow, a chimp has the rest of the day to stare into space.
- 9 But that’s changing. Now, for many zoo animals, feeding time is a chance to sharpen their skills by hunting or foraging. To keep the animals on their toes, zookeepers like to scatter or hide food rather than leaving it in one place. That way the animals can spend many enjoyable hours searching and sniffing and climbing for treats.

Let the Games Begin

- ...
- 10 With hanging vines and twisting tree trunks, the ape habitat at Lincoln Park Zoo looks a lot like a jungle. It’s also a fun house. Trees are booby-trapped with touch pads that set off water misters or scatterguns loaded with food. Scientists like observing how and when chimpanzees figure out the hidden tricks, and the chimpanzees like solving the puzzles and being rewarded with a cooling mist of water or a round of snacks.
- 11 Other animals get toys that are less high-tech but still fun to play with. Hippos and elephants push big rubber balls, and wolves tug on bits of fur. Of course, toys with food inside are always popular. Lions at the Detroit Zoo got to stalk a zebra, although it wasn’t much of a challenge; the zebra was papier-mâché. When they tore open the piñata, the lions were rewarded with a belly full of food.

. . .

- 12 Research has already shown that keeping life interesting changes things for the better. Animals act more naturally—and they get sick less from stress-related illness. They're livelier, and they interact more with friends and family. It just goes to show—a bit of homework keeps you healthy.

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Item(s)

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Informational Text	Key Ideas and Details	RI.5.2	2

Which sentence summarizes the passage?

- A Zoo animals behave differently than wild animals.
- B Food is harder for animals to find when they live in the wild.
- C Zoo animals are healthier when they can behave like wild animals.
- D Games teach zoo animals to eat differently than they would in the wild.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: The passage states that animals in the zoo show behaviors never seen before in the wild, but this does not summarize the passage.

Choice B: This may be true, but it does not summarize the passage.

Choice C: Key – Vets and zookeepers have learned that animals need to be mentally engaged in order to stay healthy and happy.

Choice D: The passage does indicate that zookeepers use games to keep animals at the zoo engaged and healthy, but it does not indicate that these games form different eating habits.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Informational Text	Key Ideas and Details	RI.5.2	2

Part A

What are the main ideas of the passage? Choose **two** answers.

- Zoo lions use a fake zebra to practice hunting.
- Trees at one zoo were booby-trapped to set off water misters.
- Wild animals live longer than zoo animals because they are always busy.
- Zookeepers and vets create activities for zoo animals to keep them healthy.
- Scientists learned that zoo animals were showing signs of stress because they were bored.

Part B

Which detail from the passage supports the answers in Part A?

- A "The hole is too deep and the ketchup too far away." (paragraph 6)
- B "In the wild, chimpanzees spend more than half their time foraging for food." (paragraph 7)
- C "That way the animals can spend many enjoyable hours searching and sniffing and climbing for treats." (paragraph 9)
- D "Research has already shown that keeping life interesting changes things for the better." (paragraph 12)

(1 Point)

Option Rationales

Part A

Choice A: This is an example of how zoo animals keep themselves busy, but it is not a main idea.

Choice B: While toys are one of the ways zookeepers and vets are helping animals stay happy and healthy, this is a detail and not a main idea.

Choice C: While wild animals tend to be happier and healthier, the passage states that zoo animals have a better chance at survival because they are isolated from predators.

Choice D: Key – Zoo animals get stressed out and sick because they are bored, so zookeepers and vets have come up with ways to entertain them.

Choice E: Key – Scientists observed zoo animals and compared them to the ones in the wild and realized zoo animals were getting stressed out because they had nothing to do.

Part B

Choice A: This detail gives a description of a hidden food source; it does not support the main ideas.

Choice B: This detail provides information about wild animals but does not support the two main ideas about animals' health and what zoos are doing to address the issue.

Choice C: This detail does not support the main ideas.

Choice D: Key – This detail supports both main ideas by explaining how scientists are already seeing positive results from the actions taken by zookeepers and vets to help bored animals.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Informational Text	Key Ideas and Details	RI.5.3	2

Select **two** reasons why animals in zoos live longer than animals in the wild.

- Zoo animals are better at hunting.
- Zoo animals have more things to do.
- Zoo animals have food provided for them.
- Zoo animals do not live in groups together.
- Zoo animals do not have predators hunting them.

(1 Point)

Option Rationales

Choice A: It can be inferred that animals in the wild are better at hunting than zoo animals, since the animals living in the zoo do not have to hunt for their food.

Choice B: This is true about animals in the wild; the passage explains that animals at the zoo get bored easily.

Choice C: Key – Paragraph 2 mentions the fact that there are "keepers to feed them" as one of the reasons zoo animals live longer.

Choice D: Both animals at the zoo and in the wild live in groups together; the passage does not indicate that zoo animals do not live in groups or that this is one of the reasons the animals at the zoo live longer.

Choice E: Key – Paragraph 2 mentions the fact that there are "no predators to eat them" as a reason that animals in the zoo live longer.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Informational Text	Craft and Structure	RI.5.4	2

Read the sentence from the passage.

"With hanging vines and twisting tree trunks, the ape habitat at Lincoln Park Zoo looks a lot like a jungle." (paragraph 10)

Which statement describes what habitat means?

- Ⓐ a shelter built by an animal
- Ⓑ an activity featured in the zoo
- Ⓒ an area where an animal lives
- Ⓓ a place where scientists take tests

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: Though a shelter could be part of an animal’s habitat, the passage does not indicate that the animals built this habitat.

Choice B: Even though the sentence refers to the activities designed for the monkeys to enjoy, the term “habitat” is the area in the zoo where they live.

Choice C: Key – As implied in the sentence, a habitat is the area where an animal lives.

Choice D: While the scientists do observe the animals in this particular booby-trapped habitat, the passage does not suggest that a habitat is defined by scientists themselves taking tests.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Informational Text	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	RI.5.8	2

Which detail from the passage supports the idea that animals feel stress while living in a zoo?

- Ⓐ lions hunting fake zebras
- Ⓑ wolves tugging on bits of fur
- Ⓒ elephants bobbing their heads up and down
- Ⓓ chimpanzees sticking their tongues in a termite mound

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: This is a healthy behavior of lions in the wild that is mimicked through an activity at the zoo.

Choice B: This is not a sign they are stressed but rather an activity given to zoo wolves to keep them from becoming stressed.

Choice C: Key – This is an unnatural behavior of elephants and therefore a sign they are experiencing stress.

Choice D: This is part of problem-solving behavior, which is natural and healthy for chimpanzees.