

Alaska

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT STANDARDS BASED ASSESSMENTS (SBA)

Reading Item Sampler

Grade 6



Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

INTRODUCTION

The Assessment Item Sampler is designed to help teachers assist students to do their best on the Alaska Comprehensive System of Student Assessment, Standards Based Assessments in grades 3 through 9. Data Recognition Corporation, the contractor designing the Standards Based Assessments, produced this item sampler from questions developed for Alaska.

The Standards Based Assessments are designed to estimate the degree to which students have mastered the Academic Performance Standards for reading, writing, and mathematics outlined in the Grade Level Expectations. These assessments are written specifically for Alaska and are the foundation of the Alaska school accountability system. Results are valuable for districts, schools, and students. Results are used to measure a school's Adequate Yearly Progress in accordance with No Child Left Behind. Additionally, these assessments, because they are consistent across grade levels, provide the ability to gauge students' academic progress. This test combined with other information from classroom and local assessments provides districts with valuable student performance data and degrees of mastery.

The Assessment Item Sampler was developed to give students and teachers a practical way to become familiar with the kinds of test questions that will appear on the Standards Based Assessments. The Assessment Item Sampler is in no way a predictor of the test taker's ability to perform on the actual Standards Based Assessments, nor are the questions the same as those on the actual test. The questions on the item sampler reflect the type of questions one might see on the actual assessment. The length of the item sampler does not reflect the amount of time it will take for a student to complete the actual Standards Based Assessments. The purpose of the sampler is to help teachers become familiar with the Standards Based Assessments and give them a tool to use with students as they prepare for the assessment.

Additional copies of the Assessment Item Sampler can be downloaded from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development Web site by going to <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/sba.html>.

Read the passage about a “cool” place to stay. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Icehotel

by Donna O’Meara

Have you ever hopped out of bed on a chilly morning and felt that the floor beneath your feet must be made of ice? You would get the same feeling if you stayed at a certain hotel in Jukkasjärvi, Sweden, but there would be a good reason for it. At Icehotel, everything, including the walls, floors, and furniture, is actually made of ice and snow.

Icehotel was conceived in 1989 when an ambitious group of business people came up with a novel idea to entice visitors to their frozen little town, located just within the Arctic Circle, during the darkest part of winter.

They built a 100-square-foot igloo and filled it with elaborate ice sculptures and art. The project was a huge success and several travelers slept overnight in the structure. This gave the founders another idea. They expanded the igloo, and today it is called Icehotel. In 2001, more than 43,000 people visited Icehotel.

Each November, a brand-new hotel is built, and each spring, the old one melts. It requires 3,000 tons of ice and 30,000 cubic meters of snow to build the massive ice palace. The indoor temperature at Icehotel is about 30°F, which may seem extremely cold until you compare it with the outside temperature of -35°F. The extraordinary ice structure has 60 bedrooms, a lavish reception area, a fantastic ice art exhibit, a cinema, and more. All of the serving glasses used to serve beverages are squares of ice cut from the Torne River, with drilled

holes to hold a beverage. No need for a dishwasher here.

The hotel is formed over a steel frame to prevent collapse. Ice columns as tall as 1,500 feet support the structure. Giant blocks of ice cut from the river with ice saws are dragged by tractor to make ice walls. The fast-running Torne River produces crystal-clear, sparkling ice.

Finally, when the outside is built, the “interior decorators” are called in. A hand-selected group of artists cuts, hacks, chisels, and carves ice blocks into beds, desks, window frames, lamps, tables, and artwork. The artists vary each year so that no two Icehotels look the same.

Icehotel is open four months of the year, during which time visitors can marvel at the splendor as they wander slowly from room to room. Visitors must pay an entrance fee to view the sculptures and building. A stay at the hotel is very expensive.

Spring arrives in April, and Icehotel slowly begins to melt as the days get warmer. Everyone rushes to save as much ice and snow as possible for the next year. A giant freezer, more than 3,000 feet wide, has been built to store the ice. During the warm months, visitors are allowed into the freezer to view the ice art. In 2001, six igloos were built inside the freezer and rented to overnight guests. A stay at Icehotel is one that will be frozen in your memory forever.

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Reporting Category: Forming a General Understanding
Grade Level Expectation: 2.5.1

1. The passage mainly focuses on which aspect of Icehotel?
 - A tourism
 - B location
 - C decoration
 - D construction

Reporting Category: Analysis of General Content and Structure
Grade Level Expectation: 2.9.1

2. Which is an opinion of the author?
 - A Icehotel has a lavish reception area.
 - B Icehotel has an indoor temperature of about 30° F.
 - C All of the serving glasses are cut from the Torne River.
 - D The hotel is formed over a steel frame to prevent collapse.

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Reporting Category: Word Identification Skills

Grade Level Expectation: 2.1.2

3. As used in the passage, the phrase marvel at the splendor means to be
- A awed.
 - B relaxed.
 - C humored.
 - D distracted.

Reporting Category: Forming a General Understanding

Grade Level Expectation: 2.2.3

4. According to the passage, visitors enjoy the idea of the Icehotel so much that in the summer they are willing to
- A make their winter reservations.
 - B sleep in igloos built in a giant freezer.
 - C help to cut blocks of ice from the river.
 - D help to save as much ice and snow as possible.

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Reporting Category: Forming a General Understanding

Grade Level Expectation: 2.2.4

Short Constructed Response (2 points)

5. What makes Icehotel an impressive structure? Use two examples from the passage to support your response.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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