

Minnesota

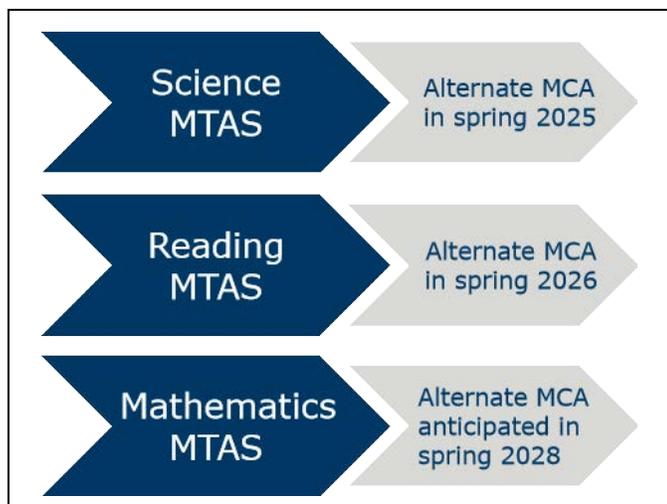
Alternate MCA Sample Task
Reading
Grade 6



Overview

Preparation for New Assessment: Alternate MCA

With the transition to new academic standards, MDE is developing the Alternate MCA, a redesigned alternate assessment that will replace the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS). The timeline for the first administration of the Science Alternate MCA is school year 2024–25, Reading Alternate MCA is school year 2025–26, and Mathematics Alternate MCA is anticipated in school year 2027–28.



In preparation for the new assessments, Alternate MCA tasks will be field tested in both science and reading. These field test tasks are embedded in the MTAS test materials and are administered differently than MTAS tasks. While the redesigned tasks in the Reading and Science MTAS do not count towards a student's score, it is required that all students are administered every task.

Test Materials

This section outlines the sample test materials that are available in preparation for the Alternate MCA. These materials can be used to familiarize students and educators with how Alternate MCA content is presented. While these resources are useful for preparing students for testing, they are not meant to be used as practice tests or be predictive of student performance.

Task Administration Manual

A task is comprised of three separate items that are associated with the same passage. Each passage is associated with three tasks, or nine items per passage. This sample contains one Alternate MCA reading task script that would be used by the Test Administrator and the presentation pages and passage book used by the student. In this simplified task script, administration instructions are condensed and representations of the passage and items are included for reference.

The Test Administrator presents the task's passage and each item using the materials in the Passage Book and in the Presentation Pages, which include the response options, to the student. For the reading passage, the Test Administrator can read the passage aloud to the student, the student can read the passage along with the Test Administrator, or the student can read the passage independently. Repetition and refocusing are allowed prior to a student response. If choosing to repeat the presentation of the item, the Test Administrator should follow the same administration instructions as the first time. Once the student responds, the Test Administrator records the response of A, B, C, or NR (No Response) and moves to the next item in the task; items are not presented again. Note that Test Administrators will not give a score point (0-3) for these tasks but instead will record the student's response as A, B, C, or NR. Although not reflected in this sample, there may be items that reference a specific paragraph in the passage and include directions that state the Test Administrator should turn to the referenced paragraph in the separate Passages and/or Phenomena Book, read the referenced paragraph to the student, and then present the item to the student.

If the student does not respond or if the student's response is ambiguous or appears unintentional (for example, the student knocks the question to the floor), the Test Administrator may attempt to refocus the student's attention, re-present the item and/or passage, and give the student sufficient time to respond before recording NR. Examples of unrelated or non-responses that would also be recorded this way include echolalia (for example, "ba-ba-ba-ba" or repeating the question back to the Test Administrator), random grabbing of an answer option, saying something that is unrelated to the task (for example, "I want juice."), or a non-communicative gesture (for example, hand flapping).

A [demonstration](#) of how to administer the Reading Alternate MCA is available for review.

Passage Book

The Passage Book contains the passage for the Alternate MCA reading sample task that is presented to the student. The passage is associated with the three items for the task in the Presentation Pages.

Presentation Pages

The Presentation Pages contain the three items for the Alternate MCA reading sample task that is presented to the student. Students will respond to answer options on the item presentation page; there is not a separate Response Option Cards document for Alternate MCA. Note that the student response options on the item presentation page will not be perforated. Test Administrators may choose to photocopy and separate response options if needed for an individual student.

Both the Passage Book and Presentation Pages with the item and response options should be visible to the student.

Example Task Script

An example of the task script, passage, and presentation page for the Alternate MCA reading task is provided on the following page. The task script does not bold words to indicate what the Test Administrator should read to the student. Test Administrators should read all the text that is located on the presentation pages and passage to students.

Alternate MCA Reading Example Task Script

Title

The title identifies the grade, subject, and task number.

Task

For reading tasks, each task is associated with a passage and three items.

Administration Instructions

Simplified instructions above the passage and items provide instructions on administering the reading tasks. All text on the Presentation Pages and passages should be read to students and is not bolded in the Task Script.

Item

Each task is comprised of three separate items associated with the same passage.

Alternate MCA Sample Task Grade 3 Reading Task 1

Test Administrator Instructions

Present the passage R3_1 located in the separate passage book **once** before presenting the three associated items. Read the text aloud and point to each graphic as you read.

Read the text and look at the pictures. Then, answer 3 questions.

Cookie Time

1 I walk into the kitchen and see cookie sheets on the counter. Mom is holding a mixing bowl. My brother Mike is holding a bag of chocolate chips. Mom says that it is time to bake cookies. We all cheer. We all love to bake.



Alternate MCA Sample Task Grade 3 Reading Item 1.1

Test Administrator Instructions

Present item R3_1.1 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

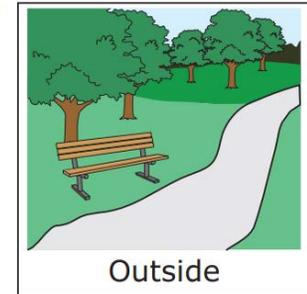
Where does this story take place?

A.



Kitchen

B.



Outside

Recording Student Responses

Record the student's response as A, B, or NR (No response). Move to the next item within the same task.

Passage

Each task is associated with one passage.

Response

Students respond to answer options on the item presentation page. There are no separate item response option cards.

Record

Record the student response on the Data Collection Form. Move to the next item within the same task.

**Alternate MCA Reading Sample Task
Administration Instructions**

Alternate MCA Sample Task

Grade 6 Reading

Tasks 1–3

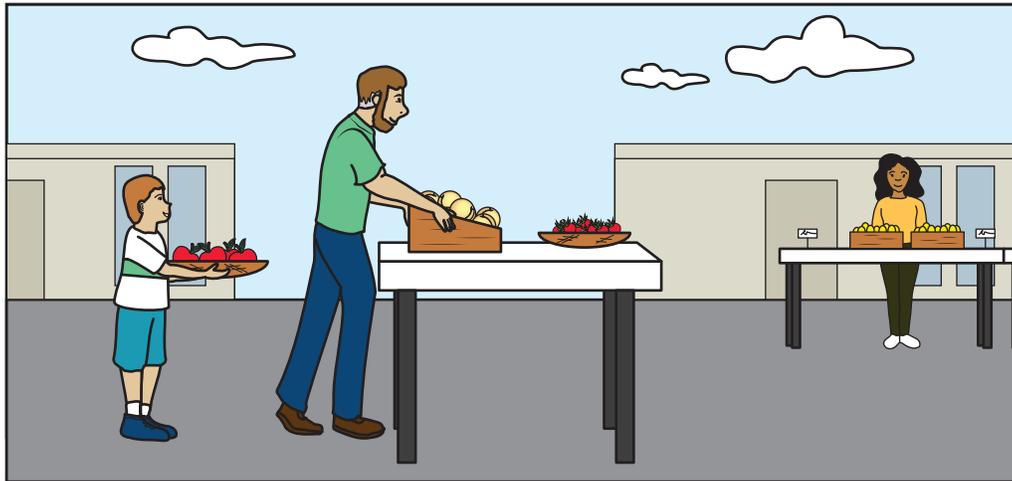
Test Administrator Instructions

*Present the passage R6_1 located in the separate passage book **once** before presenting the nine associated items. Read the text aloud and point to each graphic as you read.*

Read the text and look at the pictures. Then, answer the questions.

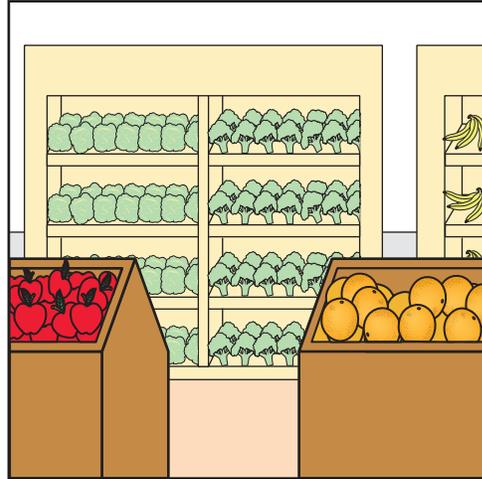
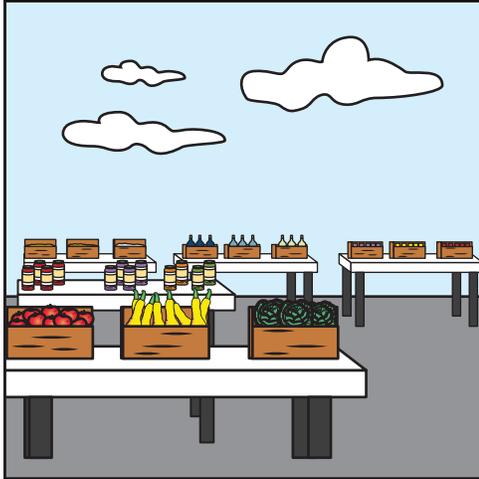
The Farmers Market

- 1 A farmers market is a place where farmers may sell their crop of fresh fruits and vegetables that they grew. Farmers sell their crops in an outside area. Farmers put their fruits and vegetables on tables to sell to people.



Alternate MCA Sample Task Grade 6 Reading Tasks 1–3

- 2 A farmers market is different from a grocery store. There are many small stores in one big place at a farmers market. You shop outside at a farmers market. At the grocery store you shop inside.



Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Tasks 1–3

- 3 Farmers markets also have other things to buy. You could buy fresh blueberry jam or spicy peach salsa. Some people sell tasty treats like nuts rolled in cinnamon. You might even find soap made by a goat farmer.



Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Tasks 1–3

- 4 Sometimes you can find fresh flowers to help make your home look pretty. You might find mums in the fall or sunflowers in the summertime.



Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Tasks 1–3

- 5 Every visit to the farmers market is a little bit different. Each item you buy helps local businesses earn more money. Shopping at a farmers market is a great way to learn about your community.



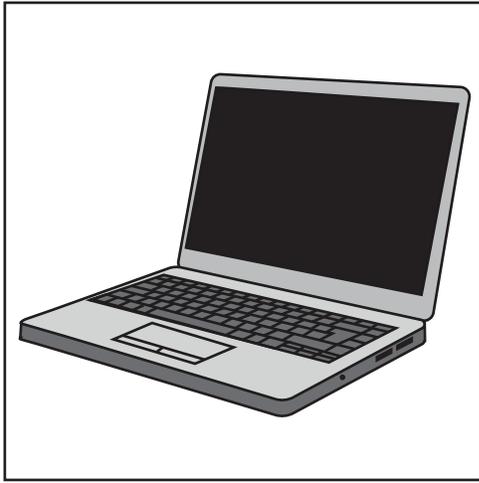
**Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 1.1**

Test Administrator Instructions

Present item R6_1.1 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

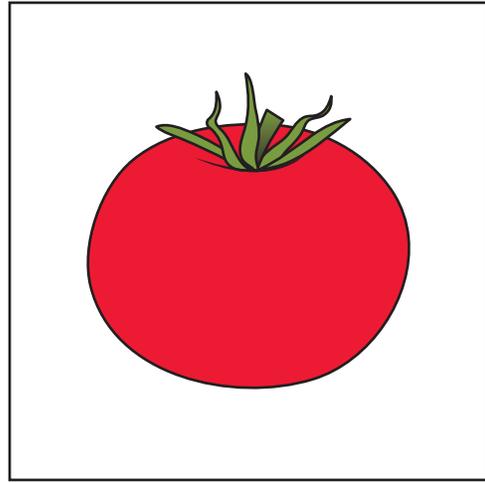
What is sold at a farmers market?

A.



Computer

B.



Food

Recording Student Responses

Record the student's response as A, B, or NR (No response). Move to the **next item** within the **same** task.

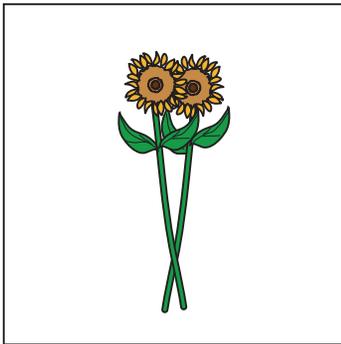
Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 1.2

Test Administrator Instructions

Turn to the paragraph of the passage referenced below, located in the Passage Book. Read the paragraph to the student. Present item R6_1.2 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

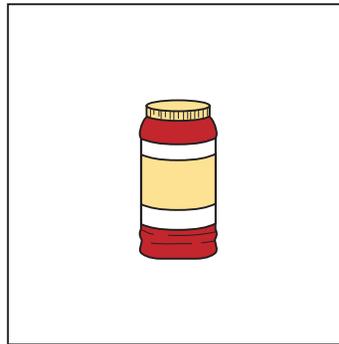
According to paragraph 4, what can make your home look pretty?

A.



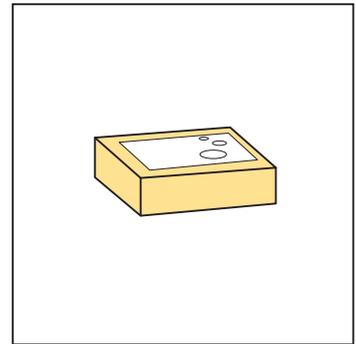
Flowers

B.



Jam

C.



Soap

Recording Student Responses

Record the student's response as A, B, C, or NR (No response). Move to the **next item** within the **same** task.

**Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 1.3**

<i>Test Administrator Instructions</i>

<i>Present item R6_1.3 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.</i>
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Which sentence tells what the passage is **mostly** about?

- A.** "Farmers sell their crops in an outside area."
- B.** "You could buy fresh blueberry jam or spicy peach salsa."
- C.** "You might find mums in the fall or sunflowers in the summertime."

Recording Student Responses

Record the student's response as A, B, C, or NR (No response). Move to the next task .

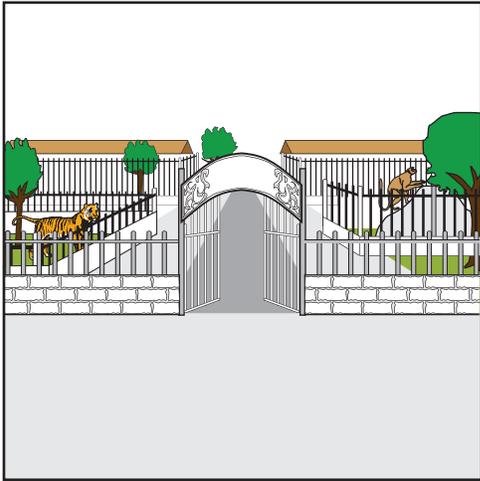
**Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 2.1**

Test Administrator Instructions

Present item R6_2.1 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

Where do farmers sell their crops?

A.



B.



Recording Student Responses

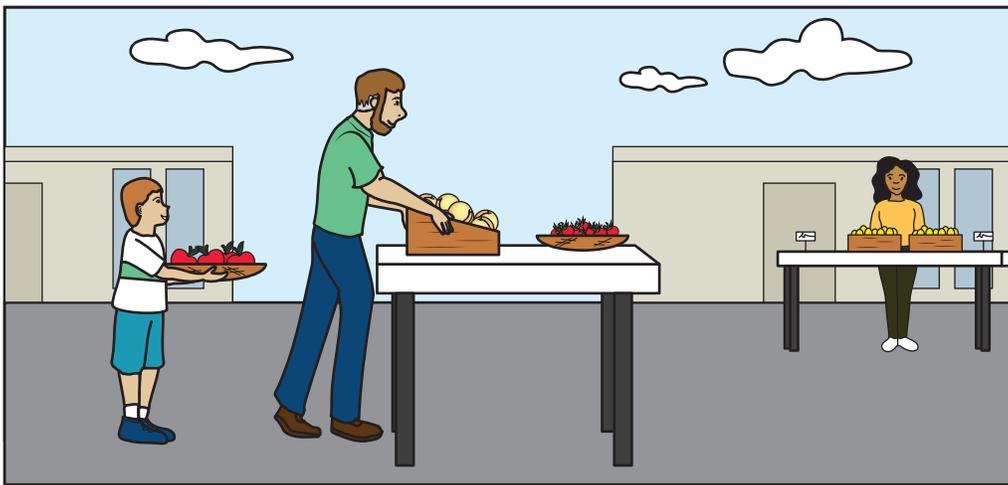
Record the student's response as A, B, or NR (No response). Move to the **next item** within the **same** task.

Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 2.2

Test Administrator Instructions

Turn to the paragraph of the passage referenced below, located in the Passage Book. Read the paragraph to the student. Present item R6_2.2 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

According to paragraph 2, how is the farmers market different from the grocery store?



- A.** You find toys. **B.** You can buy jam. **C.** You shop outside.

Recording Student Responses

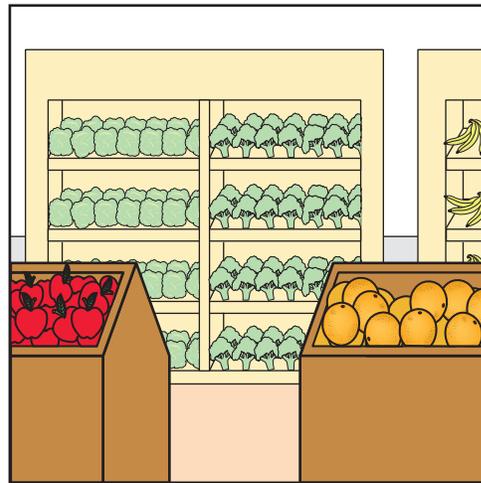
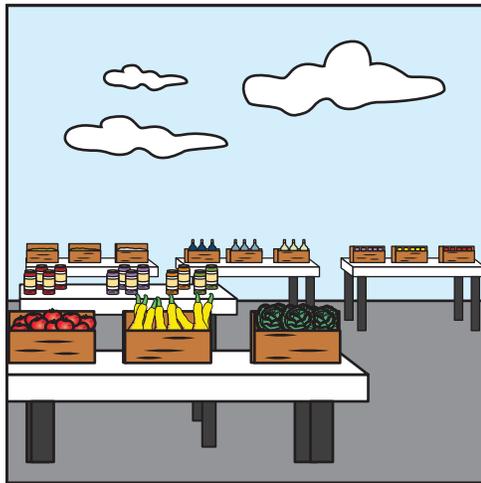
Record the student's response as A, B, C, or NR (No response). Move to the **next item** within the **same** task.

Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 2.3

Test Administrator Instructions

Present item R6_2.3 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

In the passage, how are farmers markets and grocery stores the same?



- A.** Both sell fruits and vegetables.
- B.** Both have many small stores outside.
- C.** Both help local businesses earn money.

Recording Student Responses

Record the student's response as A, B, C, or NR (No response). Move to the **next task**.

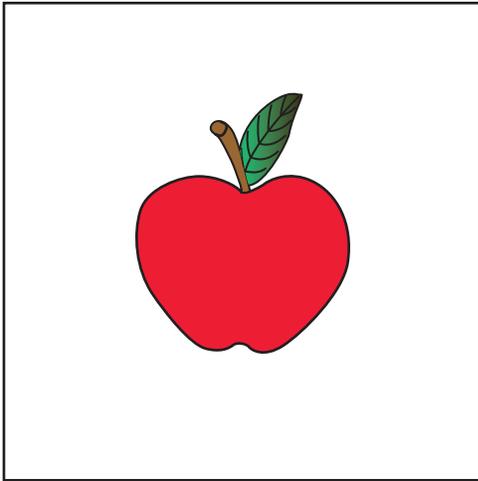
**Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 3.1**

Test Administrator Instructions

Present item R6_3.1 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

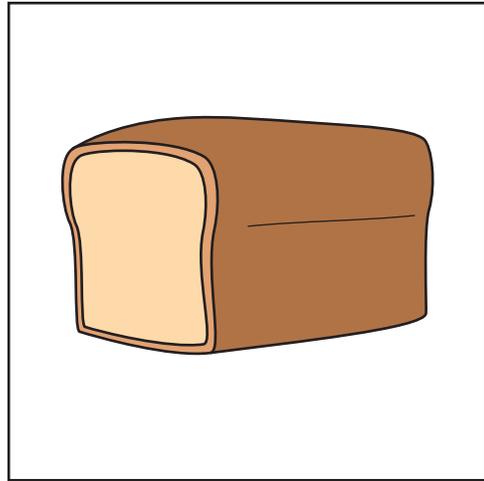
What picture shows a fruit?

A.



Apple

B.



Bread

Recording Student Responses

Record the student's response as A, B, or NR (No response). Move to the **next item** within the **same** task.

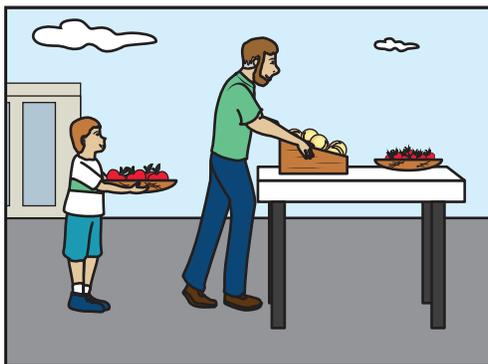
Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 3.2

Test Administrator Instructions

Turn to the paragraph of the passage referenced below, located in the Passage Book. Read the paragraph to the student. Present item R6_3.2 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

Here is a sentence from paragraph 1.

A farmers market is a place where farmers may sell their crop of fresh fruits and vegetables that they grew.



Read the dictionary entry.

crop (noun) 1. Plant grown for food
(noun) 2. A short hairstyle
(verb) 3. To cut short

What is the meaning of crop as it is used in paragraph 1?

- A.** Plant grown for food **B.** A short hairstyle **C.** To cut short

Recording Student Responses

Record the student's response as A, B, C, or NR (No response). Move to the **next item** within the **same** task.

**Alternate MCA Sample Task
Grade 6 Reading
Item 3.3**

Test Administrator Instructions

Turn to the paragraph of the passage referenced below, located in the Passage Book. Read the paragraph to the student. Present item R6_3.3 located in the Presentation Pages. Read the text aloud and point to each answer option as you read.

Here is a sentence from paragraph 5.

Each item you buy helps local businesses earn more money.

What does it mean to earn more money?

- A.** To get money
- B.** To lose money
- C.** To spend money

Recording Student Responses

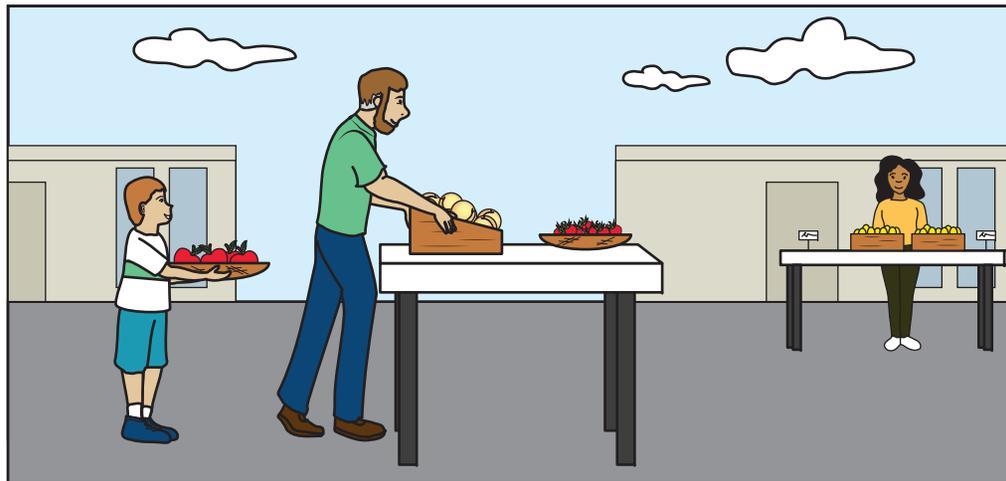
Record the student's response as A, B, C, or NR (No response). Move to the **next task**.

**Alternate MCA Reading Sample Task
Passage Book**

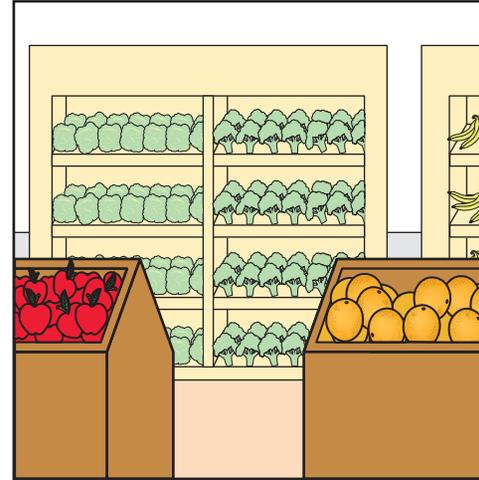
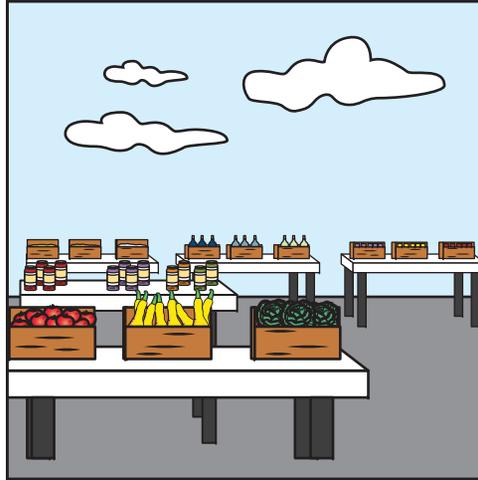
Read the text and look at the pictures. Then, answer the questions.

The Farmers Market

- 1 A farmers market is a place where farmers may sell their crop of fresh fruits and vegetables that they grew. Farmers sell their crops in an outside area. Farmers put their fruits and vegetables on tables to sell to people.



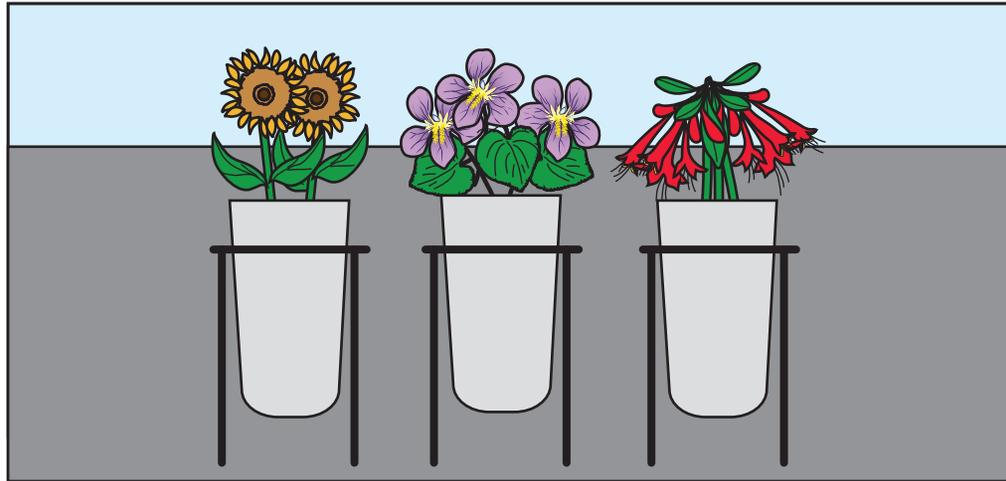
- 2 A farmers market is different from a grocery store. There are many small stores in one big place at a farmers market. You shop outside at a farmers market. At the grocery store you shop inside.



- 3 Farmers markets also have other things to buy. You could buy fresh blueberry jam or spicy peach salsa. Some people sell tasty treats like nuts rolled in cinnamon. You might even find soap made by a goat farmer.



- 4 Sometimes you can find fresh flowers to help make your home look pretty. You might find mums in the fall or sunflowers in the summertime.



- 5 Every visit to the farmers market is a little bit different. Each item you buy helps local businesses earn more money. Shopping at a farmers market is a great way to learn about your community.

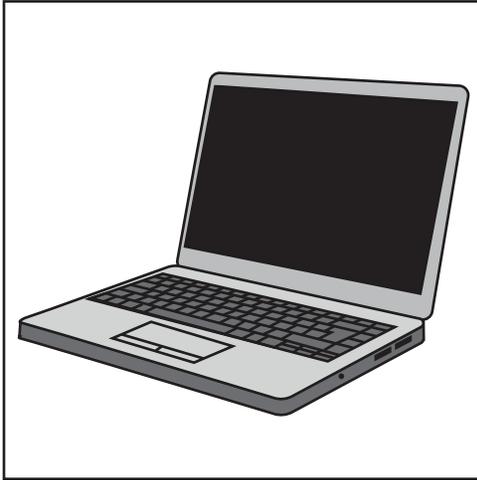


**Alternate MCA Reading Sample Task
Presentation Pages**

R6_1.1

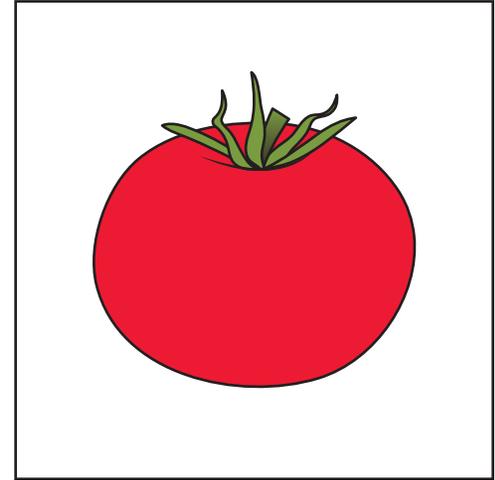
What is sold at a farmers market?

A.



Computer

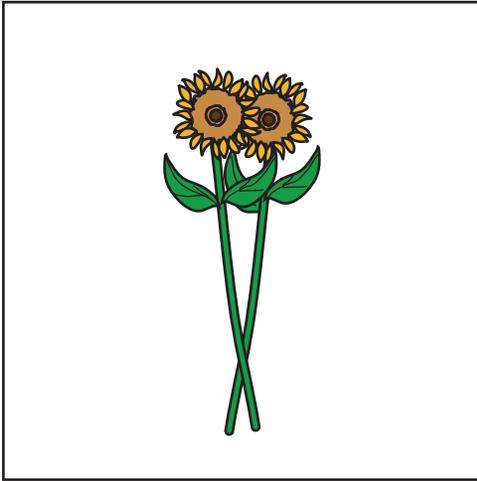
B.



Food

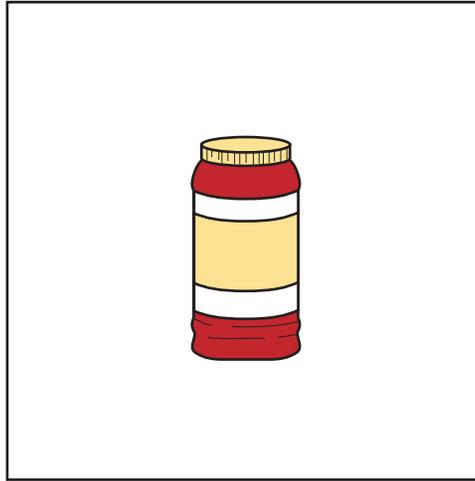
According to paragraph 4, what can make your home look pretty?

A.



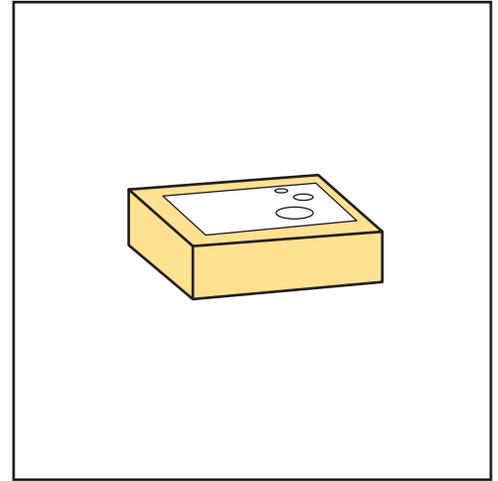
Flowers

B.



Jam

C.



Soap

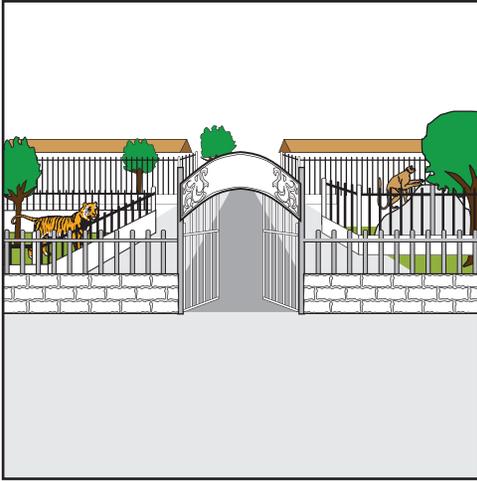
Which sentence tells what the passage is **mostly** about?

- A.** "Farmers sell their crops in an outside area."
- B.** "You could buy fresh blueberry jam or spicy peach salsa."
- C.** "You might find mums in the fall or sunflowers in the summertime."

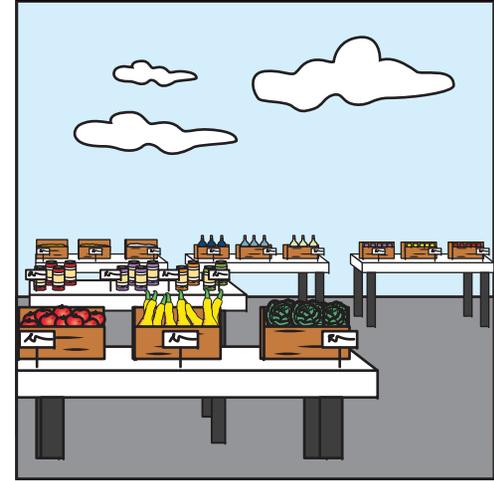
R6_2.1

Where do farmers sell their crops?

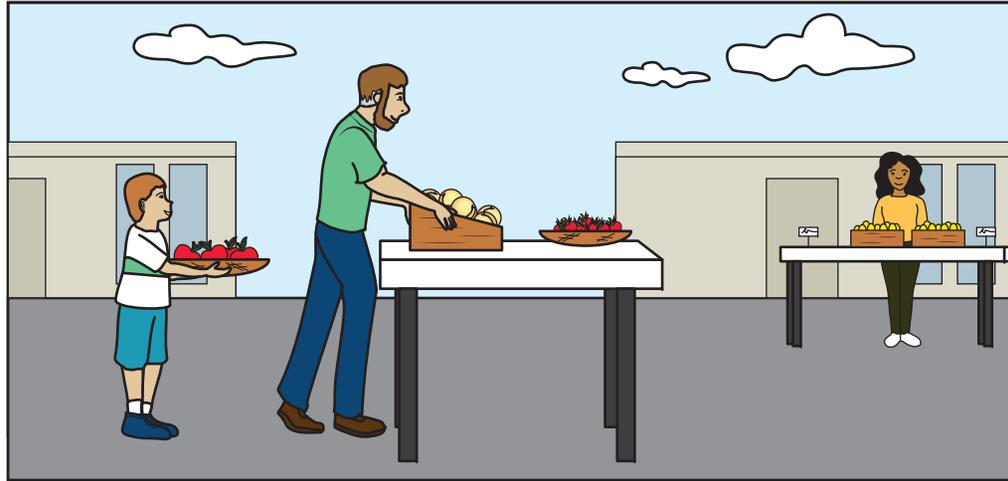
A.



B.



According to paragraph 2, how is the farmers market different from the grocery store?



A. You find toys.

B. You can buy jam.

C. You shop outside.

In the passage, how are farmers markets and grocery stores the same?

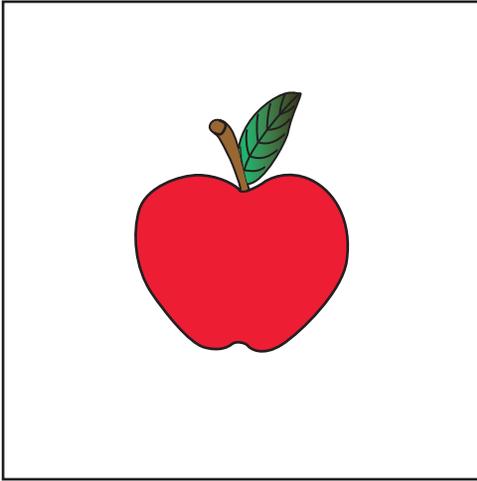


- A.** Both sell fruits and vegetables.
- B.** Both have many small stores outside.
- C.** Both help local businesses earn money.

R6_3.1

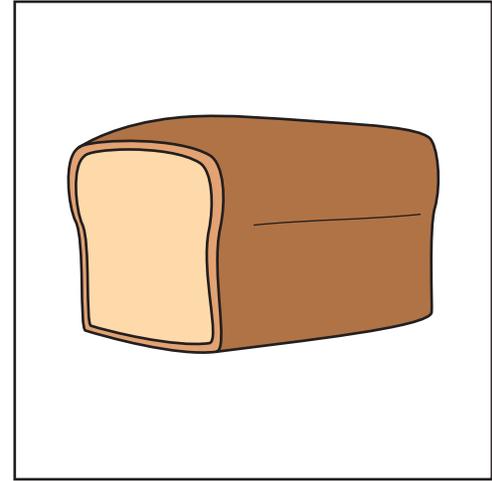
What picture shows a fruit?

A.



Apple

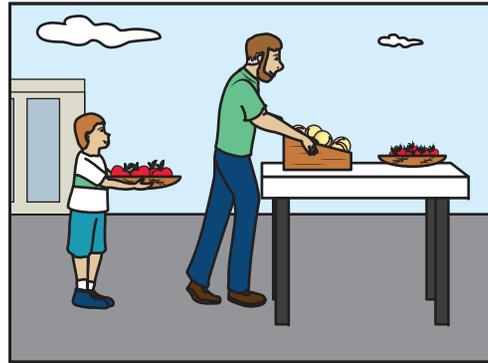
B.



Bread

Here is a sentence from paragraph 1.

A farmers market is a place where farmers may sell their crop of fresh fruits and vegetables that they grew.



Read the dictionary entry.

crop (*noun*) 1. Plant grown for food
(*noun*) 2. A short hairstyle
(*verb*) 3. To cut short

What is the meaning of crop as it is used in paragraph 1?

- A.** Plant grown for food **B.** A short hairstyle **C.** To cut short

Here is a sentence from paragraph 5.

Each item you buy helps local businesses earn more money.

What does it mean to earn more money?

- A.** To get money
- B.** To lose money
- C.** To spend money

