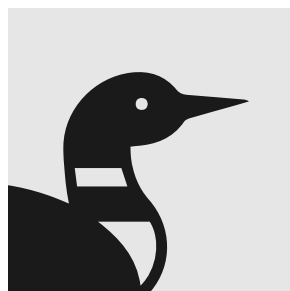
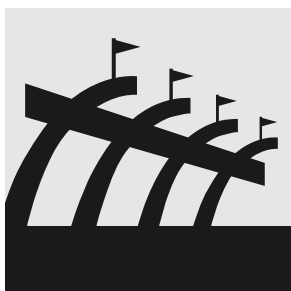
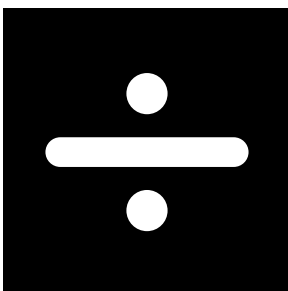
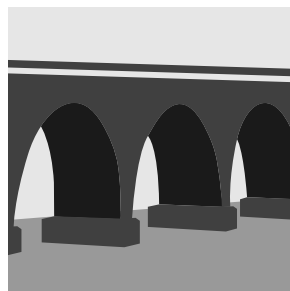


MCA-IV

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-Series IV



Reading Passages Book

MCA Paper Student Readiness Tool

Symbols on the Test

You will see the following symbols in your test book:

Go on to the next page ►

This symbol means you can continue answering questions on the next page.



This symbol means you have finished a section of the test. You must wait until you are told to go to the next section.



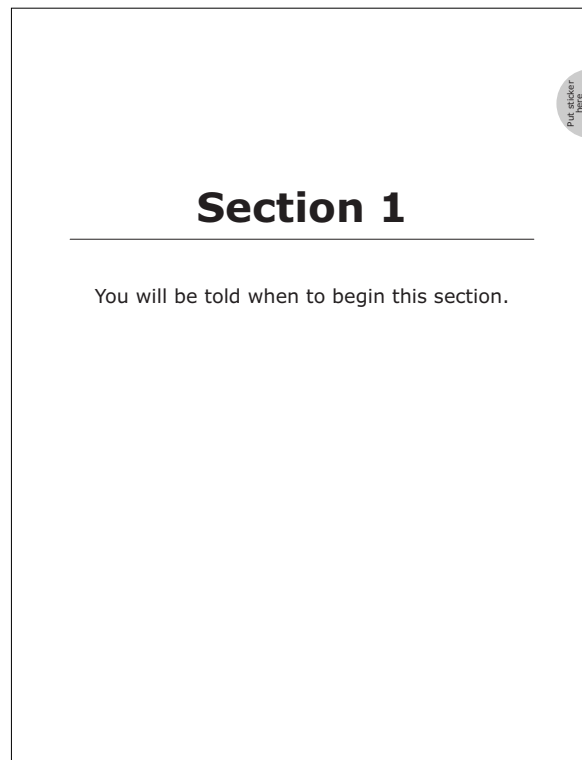
This symbol indicates where to place the sticker given to you by the Test Monitor to seal a finished section.

Go on to the next page ►

Reading Passages Book General Information

Put sticker
here

- Your reading test will consist of two books: Passages Book and Test Book. The passages book includes information to help you answer questions in the test book.
- Your passages book contains different sections. Section pages look like this:



- You can write notes in your passages book or on scratch paper, but you must answer each question in the test book.

Go on to the next page ►

Go on to the next page.

Sample Passage: Creatures of the Night

Use the information in this sample passage
to review sample questions in the
SRT test book.

Creatures of the Night

Review the sample passage. Then review the corresponding sample questions in the SRT test book.

Sample Passage

Read this article about bats. Then answer the questions. Some questions may ask you about certain paragraphs. The paragraphs are numbered on the left side.

Creatures of the Night

written for the
Minnesota Department of Education

- 1 What is that flying around in the dark? Is it a bird? Is it a mouse? Is it a flying mouse?
- 2 Popular myths make bats seem frightening. However, they are actually helpful creatures in danger of vanishing. Disease and human beings

Go on to the next page ►

are threats to bats. Most bats live only ten to twenty years. For these reasons, bats face an uncertain future. Hopefully, people will take notice of these interesting and useful creatures before they disappear from the planet.

- 3 Although bats fly like birds, they do not look like birds in any other way. The faces of bats look more like the faces of mice. Bats are mammals, not birds, because fur covers their bodies instead of feathers. Depending upon the kind of bat, this fur can be black, brown, red, multicolored, or even white! In addition, female bats nurse their young, a fact that is true of other mammals. Bats are the only mammals that can fly. Even with their wings, bats are some of the smallest mammals on Earth.
- 4 Bats have four slender fingers and a thin skin that stretches from finger to finger to form each wing. One of these fingers acts as a thumb and comes complete with a fingernail. This nail helps the bat cling to various surfaces and hold onto its food. Some bats have tiny wings that may stretch only a few inches. Other bats have

Creatures of the Night

wings that can measure up to six feet across from wing tip to wing tip! What a sight that would be in the nighttime sky!

- 5 Most bats are only active at night. Many people believe that bats are blind, but most bats actually have good eyesight. A keen eye is necessary for a bat, which can fly hundreds of feet above the ground looking for a good meal. Bats also use their hearing to locate prey they cannot see in the dark.

Practice Passage: Out of the Dark

Use the information in this passage to practice answering questions 1–2 in the SRT test book.

Out of the Dark

Read the following story about caves. Then answer the questions. Some questions may ask you about certain paragraphs. The paragraphs are numbered on the left side.

Out of the Dark

written for the
Minnesota Department of Education

- 1 Jason tried to force a smile as his classmates lined up to enter the cave. "This will be great," he whispered to Dawn, his best friend, who was standing in front of him. Jason wiped his sweaty palms on his pants and swallowed hard. The rest of his classmates were laughing and talking excitedly to one another. Jason hoped that no one would discover how he really felt about this field trip.
- 2 Dawn inched closer to Jason and turned to face him. "What did you say?"
- 3 "I said, 'This will be so great,'" he replied. "Don't you think so?"

Out of the Dark

- 4 “Well, maybe,” Dawn replied, sounding a bit unsure of herself. She swung away from him then and looked past the tour guide, who was standing at the cave entrance. Her eyes darted back and forth, searching the ceiling of the cave.
- 5 Jason took a deep breath as the line began to move, following the guide around a bend where the group could no longer see the light from the entrance. Only a few low lights shone from the sides of the cave. Silence fell as the guide motioned for the line to stop, and he began to explain the rules of cave exploration. Jason was not listening, however. Not only was his attention on his own thoughts, but his heartbeat was also drowning out the sound of the guide’s voice. He felt like the cave was swallowing him.
- 6 *I should have told the teacher the truth,* Jason thought, rubbing his arms against the chilly air. *She would not have made me come.* But he had not wanted to look foolish to the other kids. After all, how many other third graders were afraid of the dark?
- 7 The guide continued walking deeper into the cave with the students shuffling closely behind him. He stopped and pointed to a dark corner at the top of

the cave. "Bats used to live here. They would sleep during the day but become very active at night." He quickly added, "We won't be able to see them today, though, because the bats left this area a long time ago."

- 8 Dawn suddenly grabbed Jason's arm. "Did he say *bats*?" she yelped. Without waiting for an answer, she blurted out, "I knew it! I knew there would be bats here. I should have told the teacher. She wouldn't have made me come if she had known."
- 9 Ignoring the stares and giggles of his classmates, Jason tried to calm Dawn by asking in a quiet voice, "If she had known what?"
- 10 Dawn peered at the ground and kicked a loose rock.
- 11 "I'm a little afraid of bats," Dawn whispered.
- 12 Jason smiled, but only because of the warm feeling spreading throughout his heart. What a relief to know that he was not alone! "Well, I think bats are cool, but I know how it feels to be afraid. I'm a little frightened of the dark." His grin was so big that he thought it might split his face. "Don't forget that the guide just said bats are no longer here."

Out of the Dark

- 13 Dawn squeezed his arm again, but this time in a slow, careful way. Then she laughed, the sound bouncing around the darkness. With Dawn's support and the echo of her laughter all around him, Jason began to think that the cave was not so scary after all.

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here

