



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2013**

**Grade 3  
Reading**

# Reading

① Which word has a suffix (ending) that means happened in the past?

- A. frighten
- B. frightening
- C. frightened
- D. frightens

② Which word means the **opposite** of alone?

- A. always
- B. single
- C. lonely
- D. together

*Read this passage about getting oranges ready to make orange juice.  
Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Getting Ready to Make Orange Juice**

*by George Jones*

The first orange seeds were brought to North America in 1513 by the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon. Now there are more than 80 million orange trees in the state of Florida alone. About nine out of ten oranges that the trees produce will be squeezed to make orange juice.

1. Most of the oranges in the United States grow in Florida, where there are rows and rows of trees as far as the eye can see. When an orange tree is fully grown, after about 15 years, it may produce as many as 2,000 oranges in one season.
2. Oranges should not be picked before they are ready because they never get any riper once they are off the tree. When the time is right, people climb high ladders to pluck each ripe orange by hand. Pickers wear gloves and carry a canvas “picking bag” over one shoulder.
3. When the bag is full, the picker opens it from the bottom and empties the oranges into a tub. After the tub is full, a mechanical arm lifts it up and tips the oranges into a huge bin on the back of a truck. The truck then takes the oranges to the juice-processing plant where orange juice is made.
4. At the plant, drivers steer their trucks onto a ramp, which tips backward. The fruit spills out of the truck and rolls down a chute into a storage bin.
5. Inside the plant, the oranges move along a conveyor belt—like the ones at the checkout counters in grocery stores, but much longer. As the oranges go by, people check them to make sure they are ripe enough and of good quality.
6. The oranges ride along through a machine that washes and rinses them with gentle squirts of water. After the oranges are clean and have passed all their tests, they are ready to be turned into juice.

- 3 The Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon
- A. planted the first orange trees in Florida.
  - B. made the first orange juice in North America.
  - C. brought the first orange seeds to North America.
  - D. was the first to find orange trees growing in Florida.

- 4 What is the **main idea** of part 1 of the passage?
- A. Oranges are picked when they are ready.
  - B. Most oranges are produced in Florida.
  - C. Trucks are filled with oranges.
  - D. Orange trees grow in neat rows.

- 5 According to the passage, why is it important that only ripe oranges are picked?
- A. Oranges that are not ripe are difficult to pick.
  - B. Oranges do not look good before they are ripe.
  - C. Oranges are green in color before they are ripe.
  - D. Oranges do not become riper after they are picked.

When the time is right, people climb high ladders to pluck each ripe orange by hand.

- 6 The word pluck means
- A. pick.
  - B. see.
  - C. climb.
  - D. touch.

7 The word mechanical means a machine with moving parts.

Is This Mechanical?	Yes or No
A. a person who picks oranges	_____
B. a conveyor belt	_____
C. a truck with a ramp	_____
D. a storage bin	_____

Write your own sentence about something that is mechanical.

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8 Where do the oranges go **first** as they are picked?

- A. into a tub
- B. onto a ramp
- C. into a bag
- D. onto a truck

After the tub is full, a mechanical arm lifts it up and tips the oranges into a huge bin on the back of a truck.

9 A bin is used to

- A. hold something.
- B. move something.
- C. lift something.
- D. fill something.

10 What do pickers and people inside the juice plant do that is the **same**?

- A. They climb on high ladders.
- B. They make sure oranges are ripe.
- C. They stand along a conveyor belt.
- D. They empty oranges into tubs.

11 Which word has the same **ending** sound as quality?

- A. ready
- B. eye
- C. play
- D. high



# Acknowledgments

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