



# **Nebraska State Accountability**

**Grade 4  
Reading  
Practice Test**

Name:

**Directions:**

On the following pages are passages and multiple-choice questions for Grade 4 Reading Practice Test, a practice opportunity for the *Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)*.

Each question will ask you to select an answer from among four choices.

For all questions:

- Read each passage. Then answer each question carefully by choosing the best answer.
- Mark your answers for ALL of the questions.

Only one of the choices provided is the correct answer.

## Pond Life

Set so deep within the forest,  
Surrounded by a wall of green,  
Lies a pond bursting with life  
A nature-lover's dream.

5 The cattails dance  
To the rhythm of the breeze  
Along with the bushes  
And leaves on the trees.

The water lilies,  
10 With their snow-white bloom,  
Float freely on the surface  
With plenty of room.

And listen, listen,  
You will hear  
15 The sounds of animals  
Oh so near.

The frog's rivet-rivet,  
The chirp-chirp of crickets, too,  
The owl's shrill hoot,  
20 And the dove's soft coo.

Birds flying overhead,  
Fish jumping joyfully,  
Squirrels scampering up trees,  
All sights of joy to see.

25 And standing straight,  
Like soldiers on command,  
Herons wait along the shore,  
Patient for that which they demand.

This watering hole also draws  
30 Creatures from beyond its walls.  
Deer, possum, coyotes, raccoons,  
All approaching as thirst calls.

They are drawn to this gathering place,  
This safe **haven** for all that live  
35 Deep in the forest, away from it all,  
The best that nature has to give.

1. Where is the pond?
  - A. along the bushes
  - B. by the shore
  - C. within the cattails
  - D. deep in the forest
  
2. Which word is an adverb in the following phrase “float freely on the surface”?
  - A. float
  - B. freely
  - C. on
  - D. surface
  
3. Which literary device is “rivet-rivet”?
  - A. simile
  - B. imagery
  - C. metaphor
  - D. onomatopoeia

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4. What is the base word of **joyfully**?
- A. joyful
  - B. joy
  - C. full
  - D. fully
5. In lines 27 and 28, what are herons most likely waiting for?
- A. other herons
  - B. warm weather
  - C. some food
  - D. a command
6. Which is an example of personification?
- A. birds fly
  - B. crickets chirp
  - C. lilies bloom
  - D. cattails dance
7. In line 34, what is the meaning of the word **haven**?
- A. dark place
  - B. quiet place
  - C. protected place
  - D. dangerous place

## The Best Portable Housing

Tepees played an important part in the life of the Plains Indians. The tribes moved frequently. They needed to find fresh sources of food, water, and wood. They also moved to take advantage of the seasons. Tepees allowed them to move easily and often. These shelters were very cleverly planned and constructed. They could be put up in an hour. Even today, tepees are said to be the best portable housing ever made.

### Comfortable Housing

Tepees have been famous for their comfort for over 400 years. In 1599, a Spanish explorer described them with great respect. He wrote that they were large and skillfully made. He thought tepees protected people as well as houses could. They kept people warm in cold weather and cool in hot weather. Their cone shape and leather cover **shed** water well. They kept people dry, even during heavy rains.

### Setting Up a Tepee

Some tribes used three main poles to make the foundation of their tepees. Others used four main poles. They added twenty or more poles to form a wooden framework. A cover made of buffalo hides was stretched over the frame. Then it was laced together down one side. This also provided the opening for the door, which always faced east. At the top, where the lodge poles crossed, was the smoke hole. Pegs or heavy rocks secured the bottom edge of the cover. Some of the tepees measured 30 feet across.

Tepees were tilted cones. They leaned a little toward the front, so their backs were steeper. This put the smoke hole a little closer to the front. The smoke hole had two leather flaps, which looked like wings. One pole was placed inside each flap. The poles could be moved easily. They controlled the amount of air coming into the tepee and helped to take the smoke out. They could be moved to close the hole or to change the direction of the opening because of wind. During a hard rain, the fire could be put out and the smoke hole closed.

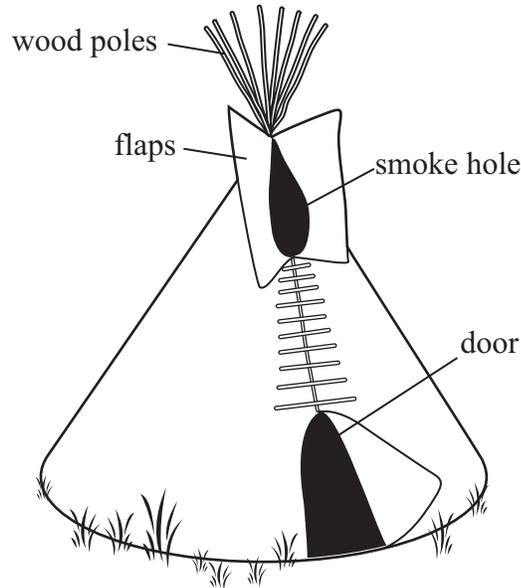
### Living in a Tepee

Inside the tepee, the fire pit was located toward the front of the tepee, just below the smoke hole. The beds lay around the outer edge, and clothing and personal items were placed under them. Bags of dried meat and fruit hung from the poles. A leather lining about five feet high helped to keep the tepee snug in cold or damp weather. During hot weather, the edges of the tepee cover could be rolled up to let in fresh air.

The tepees were often painted and decorated with a variety of designs. Some had stars and animals that were special to the particular person or tribe. Some were very simple, and others had many details. Many were works of art.

### Popular Housing

Although tepees are no longer as widely used as they once were, they are still popular. Many people today have wanted to live, at least for a while, in a tepee. There are magazines and books showing how to make one. Tepees still provide excellent portable housing.



8. What is the base word of **constructed**?
- A. construct
  - B. con
  - C. struct
  - D. structured
9. "Their cone shape and leather cover **shed** water well." In which sentence does the word **shed** have the same meaning?
- A. We store our bicycles in the old wooden shed.
  - B. Maple trees shed their leaves in the fall.
  - C. The dog shed fur all over the living room sofa.
  - D. The umbrella shed rainwater away from the girl.

10. What is the purpose of the two leather flaps on the tepee?
- A. to show ownership
  - B. to control air entering the tepee
  - C. to help decorate the tepee
  - D. to make it easier to set up
11. According to the passage, where is the fire pit located?
- A. toward the front of the tepee
  - B. toward the back of the tepee
  - C. outside of the tepee
  - D. in the middle of the tepee
12. Which section of the passage does the graphic BEST support?
- A. Comfortable Housing
  - B. Setting Up a Tepee
  - C. Living in a Tepee
  - D. Popular Housing
13. Which statement is a fact?
- A. Plains Indians loved living in tepees.
  - B. Plains Indians enjoyed moving tepees.
  - C. Plains Indians liked decorating tepees.
  - D. Plains Indians lived in large tepees.

14. Why does the author use bold headings to separate some of the paragraphs?
- A. to compare and contrast different topics
  - B. to locate unfamiliar words in the paragraphs
  - C. to show the main idea of a group of paragraphs
  - D. to show the order of events as they happened

**Grade 4  
Reading Practice Test  
Answer Key**

1	D
2	B
3	D
4	B
5	C
6	D
7	C
8	A
9	D
10	B
11	A
12	B
13	D
14	C