



**NeSA Text Dependent Analysis (TDA)  
2015 Sampler Passage**

**Grade 4**

**Passage: Living off the Earth**

**Scoring Guide**

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

## **Sample A**

The author of “Living off the earth” states that “the knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” The Native Americans had to find or make all their food, medicine, houses and clothing. They had no stores to just go and buy stuff. They used what they found around where they lived. The Apache moved to find food so they made tipis out of buffalo skins and long poles. They made cloths and shoes out of animal skins too.

Native americans also made their own tools. They used nature to make them. Trees would be used for bows, arrows, spears, and digging sticks. Stones were used to make hammers, farming tools, axe heads and arrow heads. The sharp stones made knives for meat and scraping hides. They used bones to make needles.

They had to make their own rope, cord, string and line to tie things together or to fish and sew. Some plants made good rope. They had to be smart to figure out how to make all these things.

If they ran out of water they could cut a cactus or collect water drops off plants.

Native Americans were smart to figure out how to live without all the stuff we have today. They used nature and the land to make what they needed to live.

## **Sample A Annotation**

*Score: 3*

This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses all parts of the task of explaining how the author supports the claim that the knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers. Specific, relevant evidence is provided that supports the analysis. The response is focused on the idea that Native Americans were intelligent and creative in making use of things around them where they lived. The response includes a clear introduction/thesis, body, and conclusion. The response demonstrates an appropriate organizational pattern, and the use of precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text are evident. Errors in conventions of standard English seldom interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

## Sample B

The Native Americans in “Living off the Earth” were creative and smart. They show us that it is possible to live and depend on what nature offers. I can’t even imagine that way of life so let me tell you how they actually did it.

First of all, I can’t imagine living without shelter and clothing if there are no stores to buy those things? Native Americans figured out how to build a home to last a long time. They used mud, stones and wood that they found in the area. If you travel a lot then some Native Americans built a home that could move with them. They called them tipis and they were easy to take down and move on a travois.

Now, how about imagining about how you would make your clothes, get food or have tools? If you were a Native American you figured it out. A tree gave you wood for a bow and arrow to hunt for food. You could even make planting seeds easier with a digging stick made out of a piece of hardwood. Also, after you hunted with your wooden bow and arrow you could make shoes called moccasins from the skins of animal.

Last, try to imagine how can I get my water if I’m used to getting it from my sink? If you were a Native American living in a desert you would cut open a cactus and find water to drink. What if you don’t live near cactuses? Some Native Americans got their water from morning dew. They used dry grass to get it from rocks and plants and then put into a pot.

You can now believe what you can’t imagine. All of these examples in “Living off the Earth” are how Native Americans could live on only what nature offered. Yes, they actually did it.

## Sample B Annotation

Score: 4

*This response demonstrates exemplary analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses all parts of the task, thoroughly explaining how the author supports the claim that the knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers. Relevant evidence thoroughly supports that analysis that Native Americans creatively problem solved. The response is well-focused and includes a purposeful introduction, body, conclusion, and transitions. An appropriate organizational pattern is skillfully demonstrated. The skillful use of precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text enhances meaning. A thorough demonstration of conventions of standard English with few errors is demonstrated.*

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

### **Sample C**

The author states that it is possible to live off nature just by using whats around you. Some Native American made tools from stone. Some use bone. They use bone for tools. Native American made shelter. They lived in tipis. They moved tipis with travois. The horse pulls it. Native American made rope and cord to sew and to fish. They made long rope and twisted it together. They use plants as medicine. They use cactus to drink the water inside when they got thirsty. This is how the Native American live off nature by using different stuff.

### **Sample C Annotation**

Score: 2

*This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response partially addresses the task of explaining how the author supports the claim that the knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers. Some relevant textual evidence supports the claim that Native Americans lived off nature by using what was around them. The response is partially focused on the task and includes a partially effective introduction and conclusion. The response demonstrates partial evidence of an appropriate organizational pattern. The response demonstrates partially effective use of paraphrases and quotes. The response partially demonstrates conventions of standard English, and some errors interfere with meaning.*

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

### **Sample D**

Native americans were smart. They could make there own houses and they could move them with a sled. They even made there own clothing and shoes. They grew cotton and wove it into yarn. They made shoes from aminal skins. That is how Native americans lived.

### **Sample D Annotation**

Score: 1

*This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response minimally addresses the task of explaining how the author supports the claim that the knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers. A minimal understanding of the text is demonstrated. Text analysis is ineffective as few explicit or implicit ideas from the text are addressed. Little specific evidence from the passage has been provided. The response is minimally focused, lacks an introduction or thesis statement, and includes partially effective conclusion and transitions. Precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary are not evident. Errors in conventions interfere with meaning.*

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

## **Sample E**

The author supports his claims in a couple ways. First of all the Native American’s shelter was made in nature. It has been made out of wood, stone, mud, clay, and animal skin. Some shelters are called tipis. Then the author also says that Native Americans couldn’t just walk into a hardware store and buy tools. Tools were also made in nature from things like bone and stone. Finally, thier cloths were from the wilderness from things like animal hide and (surprisingly) bark. In conclusion, the author supports his claims about Native Americans.

## **Sample E Annotation**

Score: 2

*This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. Some parts of the task are addressed to demonstrate a partial understanding of the text. The response partially analyzes the text by addressing some explicit ideas. The response partially integrates some evidence from the text by using some examples from the text. Some relevant and accurate evidence is provided to support the author’s claim. The response is partially focused and includes a partially effective introduction and conclusion. A partially effective organizational pattern is evident. Precise word choice and vocabulary are occasionally used. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.*

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

## Sample F

The author states lots of things on how the Native Americans lived by what earth provides like wood, stone, and clay and other things

Native Americans needed cloths and shelter. For homes that stayed on the ground they used wood, stone, mud, or clay. The Apach tribe was looking for food alot so they made tipis that they could move. Some Native Americans made moccasins out of animal fur. Other Native Americans used cotton for cloths.They Navajo tribe wove wool in to blankets.

The auther states in tool time that Native Americans need tools for building, clothing, growing, hunting, and to prepare food. Native Americans could not walk in to a hardware store so that had to use what nature had.They got wood from trees to get bows, arrows, spears, and digging sticks. Some Native Americans used stone for tools. They found stone and rocks around riverbanks and more places.

The auther states in tying things up Native Americans make their own rope, string, and other things.They twisted, rolled, and braided strands of fiber.

In plenty of plants the auther states that the diet for Native Americans is plants.But they also used plants for medicine.They can use cattail for many things. This plant grows in wet places. The soft materiel made good diapers and bandages.

The auther states great thing in how Native americans live off what nature provides.

## Sample F Annotation

Score: 3

*This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. All parts of the task are addressed to demonstrate understanding of the text. The response analyzes explicit and implicit ideas from the text. Specific evidence is provided using details and examples from the text. The evidence is relevant and accurate and supports the claim that “the author states lots of things on how the Native Americans lived by what earth provides.” The response is focused and includes a clear introduction/thesis and body, but the conclusion and transitions are only partially effective. Clear use of paraphrasing attributes information to the text. Precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text are occasionally used. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.*

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

### **Sample G**

There are several ways that nature can help. They must depend on what nature offers they can use plants for medicine. Also they can catch and gather meat. They can use wood for spheres arrows bows. They use mud wood and clay for house making they can make clothes for cotton. you can use stone for meat.

### **Sample G Annotation**

Score: 1

*This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The task is minimally addressed and the response demonstrates minimal understanding of the text. The response ineffectively analyzes the text by minimally addressing ideas from the text. Little specific evidence is provided. The response is minimally focused and lacks a clear introduction/thesis, conclusion, and transitions. Use of precise word choice and vocabulary from the text are not evident. Some errors in conventions interfere with meaning.*



Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

## Sample H

The author states that some Native Americans lived where there was plenty of food others needed to move so they could get food.

Native Americans used wood, stone, mud, or clay to make their houses. Also they used animal skins,cotton, and the bark off of cedar trees. They made clothing, shoes, blankers and rugs.

Native Americans needed tools so they could build shelters, make clothing, grow, hunt, and prepare food. They couldn't just go to the store and buy tools.They used trees to make bows, arrows,spears and digging tools.

Some made tools from stone like hammers, farming tools, arrows, and heads of axes. Bone was also useful people made sewing needles and awls. Awls have a slim handle they also have a sharp point.

Native Americans made their own rope, cord, string, line to sew, fish, and tie things together.People twisted, rolled, and braided strains of fiber.

The diet of Native Americans included plant's but people also used many plant's as medicine. The cattail is a blank with many uses Native Ameicans twisted the plant's leaves into rope or wove them into baskets, mats, cradles, and hats. The fluffy seeds made great diaper material and bandages.

The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.

The author has good details and tells about diffrent catogories.

## Sample H Annotation

Score: 2

*This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. Some parts of the task are addressed to demonstrate partial understanding of the text. The response analyzes text by addressing explicit ideas from the text. Specific evidence from the text is integrated using details and examples. Relevant and accurate evidence is included and supports the claim in the prompt but the analysis is only partially supported. The response is partially focused. The response lacks a clear introduction/thesis and the conclusion is partially effective. Ineffective use of paraphrasing is evident; much of the response is copied text.*

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

## Sample I

The author shows us how Native Americans could live with what nature offers and this is how:

1: The author showed us how homes and shelter were made and what they were made of.

2: The author showed us how cloths were made, what they were made of, and different kinds of clothing.

3: The author showed us what different tools they made, how they were made, what they were made of, and what they were used for.

4: The author showed us that the Native Americans made they're own rope, cord, and string, the author also showed us how it was made, what they were made of, and what they were used for.

5: The author showed us what a big role plants played in the Native Americans lives. The author showed us how many things plants did like made things for them, fed them, and created a home for them.

## Sample I Annotation

Score: 2

*This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. Some parts of the task are addressed the task to demonstrate partial understanding of the text. The response partially analyzes text by addressing explicit ideas from the text. Some relevant evidence is provided to partially support the claim that “Native Americans could live with what nature offers.” However, specific details, examples, and/or quotes are only partially integrated. The response is partially focused and includes a partially effective introduction, but no conclusion or transitions. The response utilizes a listing organizational pattern in which sections of the text are broadly summarized, which is partially suited to the purpose and intended audience. The response demonstrates minimal use of precise word choice and vocabulary from the text. Some errors in conventions interfere with meaning.*

Prompt: The author of “Living off the Earth” states that “The knowledge and creativity of the early Native Americans show it is possible to live and depend solely on what nature offers.” Explain how the author supports this claim throughout the passage. Write a well-organized responses using specific evidence from the passage to support your answer.

## **Sample J**

The clues from the story support's the authors thinking of how the people could live off the land. First to help then survive they have to make hamers, arrows, bows, sppers, axes, and digging sticks to help them hunt and build things. Next they have to make clothes and tipis out of bear, bufflo, and wolf hide. Last they have to make medsin out of plants because 200-300 years ago they didnt have claratin or antilyatic. Obyasly there are many supporting details that tells that the native americans had to live off the land.

## **Sample J Annotation**

Score: 2

*This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. Some parts of the task are addressed to demonstrate partial understanding of the text. The text is partially analyzed by addressing explicit and implicit ideas from the text. The response partially integrates evidence from the text by using some examples and details. Some relevant and accurate evidence from the text is provided which partially supports the writer's claim that "the people could live off the land." The response is partially focused and contains a partially effective introduction, conclusion, and transitions. Precise word choice and vocabulary from the text are occasionally used. Errors in conventions may interfere with meaning.*