

## **2015 Released Items: Grade 3 Performance-Based Assessment Research Simulation Task**

The Research Simulation Task requires students to analyze an informational topic through several articles or multimedia stimuli. Students read and respond to a series of questions and synthesize information from multiple sources in order to write an analytic essay.

The 2015 blueprint for grade 3 Research Simulation Task includes six Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items as well as one Prose Constructed Response prompt. This document includes a complete Research Simulation Task from an online summative assessment form.

### **Included in this document:**

- Answer key and standards alignment
- PDFs of each item with the associated text(s)

### **Additional related materials not included in this document:**

- Sample scored student responses with practice papers
- Scoring Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring
- English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2015 Summative Assessment

PBA Release Items Answer and Alignment Document  
ELA/Literacy: Grade 3

<b>Task:</b> Research Simulation Task (RST)													
<b>Passage(s):</b> Life in a Deep Freeze: from Inuit													
<b>Item Code</b>	<b>Answer(s)</b>	<b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b>											
0508_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR <b>Part A:</b> B <b>Part B:</b> A, F	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.4.1											
0509_A	<b>Item Type:</b> TECR <b>Part A:</b> C <b>Part B:</b> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Arctic Animal Characteristics</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Section Headings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>digging under the snow</td> <td rowspan="2">Escape Artists</td> </tr> <tr> <td>sleeping all winter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>using fat to block the cold</td> <td rowspan="2">The Layered Look</td> </tr> <tr> <td>protected by blubber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>covered with feathers</td> <td rowspan="2">Dressed for Winter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>growing another coat</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Arctic Animal Characteristics	Section Headings	digging under the snow	Escape Artists	sleeping all winter	using fat to block the cold	The Layered Look	protected by blubber	covered with feathers	Dressed for Winter	growing another coat	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.5.1
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0510_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR <b>Part A:</b> C <b>Part B:</b> B	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.2.1 RI 3.2.2											
0513_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR <b>Part A:</b> C <b>Part B:</b> B, E	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.4.1 L 3.4.1											

0514	<p><b>Item Type: TECR</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Causes</b>                      <b>Effects</b></p> <p>The Inuit live in one of the harshest environments on the planet. → The Inuit have adapted their lifestyle to survive in the Arctic.</p> <p>Few plants can grow in the Arctic. → Many Inuit are hunters, and they eat a lot of meat.</p> <p>Getting wet is dangerous in such a cold environment. → The Inuit make waterproof clothing.</p> <p>The Arctic is an extremely cold climate. → The Inuit make jackets out of caribou hides that are extremely warm.</p> <p>Southerners have brought modern technology to the Inuit. → The Inuit have changed their diet and way of life.</p>	<p>RI 3.1.1 RI 3.3.2</p>
0792_A	<p><b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: B</b> <b>Part B: D</b></p>	<p>RI 3.1.1 RI 3.2.1</p>
0518	<p><b>Item Type: PCR</b> Refer to Grade 3 Scoring Rubric</p>	<p>RI 3.1.1 RI 3.3.2 W 3.2 W 3.4-3.10</p>

Today you will research life in the Arctic. You will read *Life in a Deep Freeze* and a passage from “Inuit.” As you review these sources, you will gather information and answer questions about life in the Arctic so you can write an essay.

Read the article “Life in a Deep Freeze.” Then answer the questions.

### Life in a Deep Freeze

by Sandra Markle

#### How do animals survive the Arctic’s c-c-cold winters?

1 It’s noon and dark and very cold—minus 30°F. Snow and ice blanket the region. Strong winds blow across ice-covered ocean waters. It’s winter in the Arctic, one of the harshest environments on Earth. But, for many animals, this place is home.

2 So just where is the Arctic? It’s about as far north as you can go. It’s the North Polar region—the Arctic Ocean plus the lands bordering it. The landscape varies from high, icy mountains to tundra. That’s a treeless plain where a layer of soil remains frozen all year. Arctic animals have adapted well to their surroundings with some rather clever survival tactics.

#### ESCAPE ARTISTS

3 Some Arctic animals have found clever ways to wait out the long, harsh winters.

4 **Grizzly Bear:** This bear spends all spring, summer, and fall eating and storing up fat. Then the bear goes into a special type of sleep. During its winter sleep, the grizzly lives off its stored fat. To conserve energy, the bear’s internal temperature drops a few degrees. Its heart rate slows down too.

5 **Collared Lemming:** This furry relative of mice and rats changes its coat from grayish brown to white in winter. It also grows longer front claws. With their claws, lemmings dig tunnels under the wind-packed snow. There they live, protected from the cold and their predators.

#### THE LAYERED LOOK

6 For some animals, being fat means staying alive. That’s especially true for animals that hunt and live in the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean.

7 **Walrus:** This animal keeps warm even while digging for clams along the bottom of cold ocean waters. Under its inch-thick hide, the walrus has a nearly six-inch layer of blubber, or fat, to block out the cold. During deep-sea dives, warm blood shifts away from the skin surface to inside the body. This helps the walrus keep its body heat stable at about 99°F. When the walrus moves ashore, blood flows back to the skin.

**8 Harp Seal:** Protected by a thick layer of blubber, the harp seal spends most of its time in icy waters. The seal is a fast swimmer and can stay underwater for 30 minutes at a time. Its speed in the water allows it to escape its predator, the polar bear. In late winter, females climb onto a chunk of ice to give birth. A seal pup is born with a white, fluffy coat, but no blubber. The pup keeps the coat until it develops a layer of blubber. And that happens fast. On a diet of fat-rich mother's milk, a pup can gain over 80 pounds in just three weeks.

## DRESSED FOR WINTER

**9** Like you, many Arctic animals change their coats with the seasons. In winter these animals replace their summer coats with thicker ones to keep them warm when temperatures plunge. They'll wear their winter coats for a long time. Arctic winters can last for eight months.

**10 Arctic Hare:** The arctic hare living in the northernmost part of the Arctic stays white all year. But its fur coat grows thicker and longer in winter. The hare has small ears, which protect it too. Can you figure out how? Less skin is exposed to the cold, and small ears lose less body heat than larger ears.

**11 Muskox:** This animal has lots of hair to keep it warm. In fact the native Inuit people call it *umingmak*, meaning "the animal with skin like a beard." The muskox's shaggy outer coat covers everything but its feet. Underneath this outer layer of long, coarse hair is even more hair—a soft, woolly coat. The muskox sheds this undercoat when the weather gets warmer. Muskoxen also have curved hooves with sharp rims. That gives them solid footing on icy slopes.

**12 Snowy Owl:** Feathers keep this bird warm. The snowy owl's entire body—even its legs and toes—is covered with soft, fluffy feathers. On top of this coat is still another coat of overlapping feathers. When temperatures drop, the owl crouches on the ground behind an object that can block the wind. The owl stays still. Flying would use up precious heat energy.

**13 Arctic Fox:** As winter approaches, the fox replaces its brown summer fur for a longer, heavier snow-white coat. The new coat keeps the fox warm as well as hidden from predators, like the wolf. A special bloodflow system helps the fox hang onto its normal body temperature. Warm blood flowing toward the fox's legs heats up the cool blood returning from its feet. That means that the arctic fox has a warm body and cold feet. Having cold feet helps too. Ice doesn't stick to cold toes.

"Life in a Deep Freeze" by Sandra Markle, copyright © 2002 by Sandra Markle. Used by permission of National Geographic Stock. All rights reserved

**Part A**

What does the word **harsh** mean as it is used in paragraph 3 of "Life in a Deep Freeze"?

- A. located in a faraway region
- B. physically uncomfortable
- C. lasting for a long time
- D. easily managed

**Part B**

Which **two** sentences from the article help readers understand the meaning of the word **harsh** as it is used in paragraph 3?

- A. "Strong winds blow across ice-covered ocean waters." (paragraph 1)
- B. "It's about as far north as you can go." (paragraph 2)
- C. "This bear spends all spring, summer, and fall eating and storing up fat." (paragraph 4)
- D. "The seal is a fast swimmer and can stay underwater for 30 minutes at a time." (paragraph 8)
- E. "Like you, many Arctic animals change their coats with the seasons." (paragraph 9)
- F. "When temperatures drop, the owl crouches on the ground behind an object that can block the wind." (paragraph 12)

**Part A**

How do the section headings: **ESCAPE ARTISTS**, **THE LAYERED LOOK**, and **DRESSED FOR WINTER** help readers better understand the information in the article?

- A. They help readers locate specific places where animals live.
- B. Their unusual titles show readers why animals have found clever survival tactics.
- C. They divide the information about how animals adapt in different ways.
- D. Their descriptive titles help readers understand the challenges of living in the Arctic.

**Part B**

Section headings in the article contain key details about animals in the Arctic.

Drag each characteristic that is typical of Arctic animals into the space in the chart with the correct subheading.

You will select **two** characteristics for each section heading.

## Animal Characteristics

sleeping all winter	covered with feathers
using fat to block the cold	growing another coat
digging under the snow	protected by blubber

Arctic Animal Characteristics	Section Headings
<input type="text"/>	Escape Artists
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	The Layered Look
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	Dressed for Winter
<input type="text"/>	

**Part A**

The author of "Life in a Deep Freeze" begins the article with the question:

How do animals survive the Arctic's c-c-cold winters?

Which answer to this question reveals the main idea of the article?

- A. Some animals have fur that changes color with the seasons. Having white fur in the winter helps the animals hide from their predators. Thick fur also keeps the animals warm.
- B. Animals like the muskox have a thick outer layer of hair and an undercoat of soft wool. The muskox can shed the undercoat in the summer when the weather gets warmer.
- C. Animals use more than one adaptation for surviving in a cold environment. Different animals use different tactics to keep warm, blend in, and hide from their predators.
- D. Several types of animals have thick layers of blubber. Thick layers of fat can keep animals warm even when they are swimming in icy water. The blubber blocks out the cold.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the article supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "But, for many animals, this place is home." (paragraph 1)
- B. "Arctic animals have adapted well to their surroundings with some rather clever survival tactics." (paragraph 2)
- C. "For some animals, being fat means staying alive." (paragraph 6)
- D. "As winter approaches, the fox replaces its brown summer fur for a longer, heavier snow-white coat." (paragraph 13)

**Today you will research life in the Arctic. You will read *Life in a Deep Freeze* and a passage from “Inuit.” As you review these sources, you will gather information and answer questions about life in the Arctic so you can write an essay.**

Read the passage from the article “Inuit”. Then answer the questions.

from “Inuit”

by Carol White

**1** In one of the most remote places in the world, the Canadian Arctic, a people have survived over a thousand of years. They are the Inuit. For the Inuit, the Arctic is a place teeming with life. Depending on how far north they live, the Inuit find everything from caribou herds and polar bears to beluga whales. The Inuit have adapted themselves to the various regions they inhabit. At one time they were considered to be among the healthiest people in the world. This is no longer the case; the Inuit lifestyle has changed dramatically over the past decades. The arrival of southerners and modern technology resulted in big changes to the Inuit diet and way of life.

**2** Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in a modern world.

### **Way of Life**

**3** When you live in an environment that has few plants, there is a very good chance you will become a hunter. The Inuit pride themselves on being great hunters. The Inuit had lots of sea and land animals to hunt. The most important of these were the caribou and the seal. These two animals provided the Inuit with food. Their skin was used for clothing, blankets, tents and boats and their oil was used for cooking and lamps. Bones, ivory and wood were used to make tools. Other animals the Inuit hunted were the walrus, whale, polar bear, musk ox, fox and wolf.

### **Food**

**4** Because edible plants are scarce in the Arctic, the Inuit ate mostly meat they got from hunting. They ate animals such as caribou, seals, walruses, polar bears, arctic hares, musk oxen, birds such as ptarmigan, and fish such as arctic char, salmon and whitefish. In the summer they also gathered berries and other edible plants.

## **Clothing**

5 Seal or walrus intestine is waterproof, and the Inuit scraped, cleaned, soaked and dried the intestines to make waterproof clothing. This kept the people dry, which was important since water freezes quickly in the North. People can get into a lot of trouble if they get wet in the Arctic and then freeze. Besides waterproof clothing, the Inuit also made parkas of caribou fur to wear in the cold winter.

6 At one point, scientists in Canada did a study to find out what the warmest winter clothes were. This included clothes that were sewn out of cloth, wool and other fabrics. The caribou jacket was the warmest by far. Even in winter, Inuit could not sleep with their jackets on because they got so hot that they would sweat. Sweat is dangerous in a cold climate because, like water, it freezes.

## **Shelter**

7 At one time the Inuit had a summer home and a winter home. In the summer, the Inuit often lived in tents that they made from caribou hides with wooden frames. In the winter many Inuit lived in sod homes. They would dig a hole in the ground and pile rocks and sod all around the outside to make walls. Pieces of wood or whalebone were used as a frame for the roof, which the Inuit then covered with sod. In both the tents and the sod houses the Inuit built raised platforms at the back for sleeping.

8 The Inuit are famous for their igloos. An igloo is built of blocks of snow shaped into a dome. They were mostly used as temporary shelter during winter hunting trips. The igloo is the one of the Inuit's best inventions. It is warm and easy to construct. Most Inuit today have settled in villages and live in houses.

Selected text only from Inuit community article from The Kids' Site of Canadian Settlement, by Carol White. Copyright © Government of Canada. Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government of Services Canada (2013).

**Part A**

What does the word **teeming** suggest as it is used in paragraph 1 of "Inuit"?

- A. challenging
- B. abandoned
- C. plenty
- D. modern

**Part B**

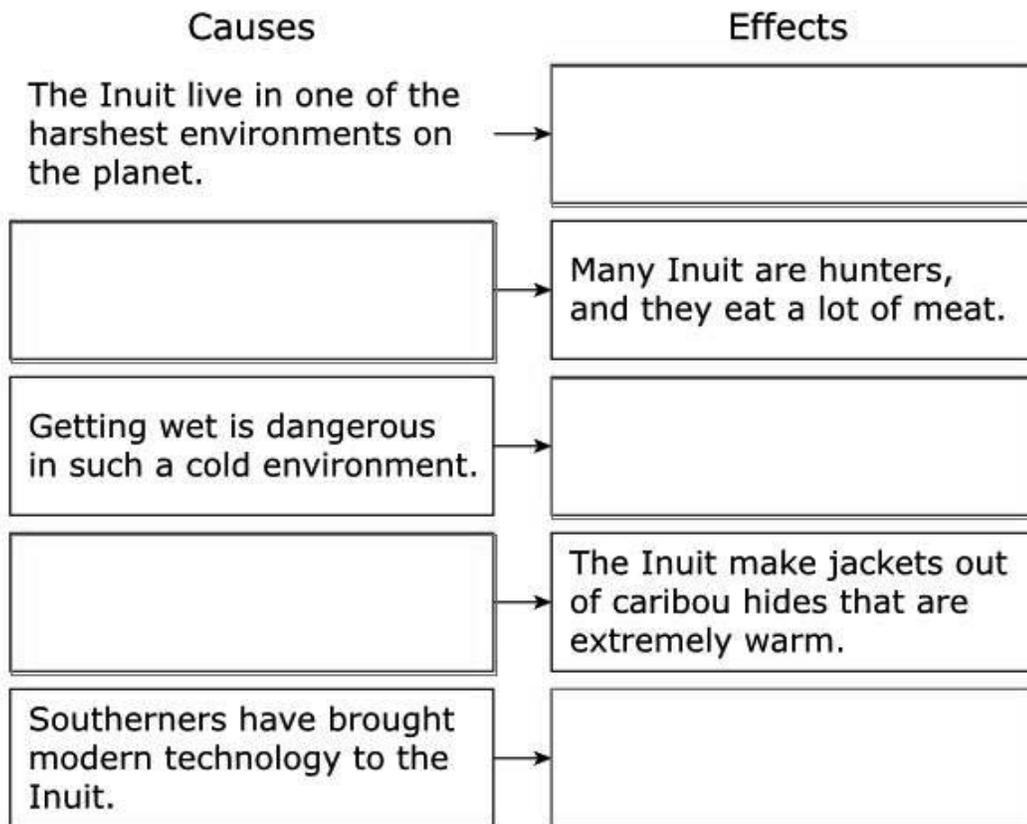
Which **two** sentences from the article help readers understand the meaning of the word **teeming** as it is used in paragraph 1?

- A. "In one of the most remote places in the world, the Canadian Arctic, a people have survived over a thousand of years." (paragraph 1)
- B. "Depending on how far north they live, the Inuit find everything from caribou herds and polar bears to beluga whales." (paragraph 1)
- C. "At one time they were considered to be among the healthiest people in the world." (paragraph 1)
- D. "Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in a modern world." (paragraph 2)
- E. "They ate animals such as caribou, seals, walruses, polar bears, arctic hares, musk oxen, birds such as ptarmigan, and fish such as arctic char, salmon and whitefish." (paragraph 4)
- F. "In the summer they also gathered berries and other edible plants." (paragraph 4)

How are the ideas in "Inuit" related to each other? Drag ideas from the List of Causes and Effects to complete the chart.

List of Causes and Effects

Few plants can grow in the Arctic.	The Arctic is an extremely cold climate.
The Inuit have adapted their lifestyle to survive in the Arctic.	The Inuit make waterproof clothing.
The Inuit have changed their diet and way of life.	



**Part A**

What is the main idea of the passage from "Inuit"?

- A. The Inuit are an ancient people living in a remote region.
- B. The Inuit are skilled at surviving with only what nature provides.
- C. The Inuit spend all of their time hunting animals in order to survive.
- D. The Inuit have become dependent on modern conveniences in the past few years.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "For the Inuit, the Arctic is a place teeming with life." (paragraph 1)
- B. "The arrival of southerners and modern technology resulted in big changes to the Inuit diet and way of life." (paragraph 1)
- C. "Today, the Inuit are rediscovering their rich heritage and they are learning to govern themselves in a modern world." (paragraph 2)
- D. "In the summer, the Inuit often lived in tents that they made from caribou hides with wooden frames." (paragraph 7)

0518

Items: "Life in a Deep Freeze" and passage from "Inuit"

Your friend thinks it is impossible for people and animals to live in the Arctic.

Write a letter to your friend explaining it is possible to live in the Arctic.

Include information about how people and animals are able to survive in the cold. Use ideas and facts from **both** articles in your letter.

<b>B</b>	<i>I</i>	<u>U</u>	☰	☷	↶	↷