

Grade 10
English Language Arts/Literacy
End of Year S/M Informational
Text Set

2019 Released Items

2019 Released Items: Grade 10 End of Year S/M Informational Text Set

The short/medium (S/M) informational text set requires students to read an informational text and answer questions.

The 2018 blueprint for the grade 10 S/M informational text set includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/ Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items.

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 annotations and practice papers
- Scoring Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring

**Release Items Answer and Alignment Document ELA/ Literacy:
Grade 10**

Text Type: S-M Info						
Passage(s): from <i>Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World</i>						
Item Code	Answer(s)					Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
VH133310	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: D					RI 10.1.1 RI 10.4.1
VH133321	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: A, B					RI 10.1.1 RI 10.2.2 RI 10.3.2
VH133564	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: D					RI 10.1.1 RI 10.5.1
VH133333	Item Type: TECR					RI 10.1.1 RI 10.3.2
	Descriptor	Consumed by previous generations	Susceptible to disease	Became popular after the spread of a certain fungus	Grown by cloning	Ripens at a predictable rate
	Cavendish variety only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Gros Michel variety only	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Both	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Read the passage from the book *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World* by Dan Koeppel, originally published in 2007. Then answer the questions.

from *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World*

by Dan Koeppel

- 1** The banana that is dying, the Cavendish, is the most popular single variety of fruit in the world. It is the one that you and nearly everyone you know eats today. But, as I first learned through my research for *Popular Science*, it's *not* the fruit your grandparents enjoyed. That banana was called the Gros Michel, which translates as "Big Mike." By all accounts, Big Mike was a more spectacular banana than our Cavendish. It was larger, with a thicker skin, a creamier texture, and a more intense, fruity taste. It was the original banana that arrived at American tables, and from the late nineteenth century until after World War II, it was the only banana Americans bought, ate, or thought of.
- 2** But the Gros Michel disappeared. A disease began to ravage banana crops not long after the first banana trees were planted in Central America. The malady was discovered in Panama and named after that country. Panama disease—actually a fungus—is particularly virulent. It is transmitted through soil and water. Once it hits a plantation, it quickly destroys, and then moves on.
- 3** The reason Panama disease is so devastating isn't just because the malady is strong. It is also because bananas, at their core, are weak. That's another contradiction, because everything we see or can intuitively conclude about the banana implies the opposite. Our banana's thick skin makes the fruit tough enough to survive not only being stacked in boxes on the way to the grocery but also being tossed over the back of a mule in Ecuador or strapped in bunches to a motor scooter bumping through a humid, dense plantation in the Philippines. Unlike peaches or plums, bananas all ripen at nearly the same rate, arriving at the store green and cycling from yellow to flecked with brown in almost exactly seven days. There is no fruit more consistent or reliable, which is one of the reasons we eat so many of them. A banana's taste and visual appearance are as predictable as a Big Mac's.

- 4** There's a simple explanation for this, and you can find it—or, more accurately, can't find it—when you peel a banana: no seeds. You will never, ever find a seed in a supermarket banana. That is because the fruit is grown, basically, by cloning. One banana begets another in a process similar to taking a cutting from a rosebush—and multiplying it by a billion. Every banana we eat is a genetic twin of every other, whether that banana is grown in Ecuador, where most of our fruit comes from; in the Canary Islands, which supply Europe; or in Australia, Taiwan, or Malaysia. The banana sliced into Swiss muesli is the same one we cut into Rice Krispies. The banana Hong Kong action star Stephen Chow slipped on in *Shaolin Soccer* (2001) is as identical to its cohorts as the Gros Michel that caused a pratfall in *The Pilgrim* (1923), starring Charlie Chaplin, was to its brethren.
- 5** Yet because every banana is the same, every banana is equally susceptible: Billions of identical twins means that what makes one banana sick makes every banana sick.
- 6** That's what happened to the Gros Michel. Panama disease spread from the country in which it was first discovered to neighboring nations, moving north through Costa Rica all the way to Guatemala and south into Colombia and Ecuador. The process took decades. By 1960, fifty years after the malady was first discovered, the Gros Michel was effectively extinct. The banana industry was in crisis, itself threatened with disappearance. It was only at the last minute that a new banana was adopted.
- 7** The Cavendish was immune to Panama disease, and in a few years the devastated plantations resumed business as usual. The change happened so quickly and smoothly that consumers barely noticed. The Gros Michel era ended not just with a new banana but with an assumption: The old banana, now gone, was uniquely frail. Cavendish, convenient and delicious, was strong.
- 8** But it wasn't strength that kept the Cavendish healthy. It was simply a matter of being in the right place at the right time. Many of the world's non-Cavendish varieties of bananas—eaten and grown in Asia and Africa, India, through the islands of the South Pacific, all the way to Australia and New Zealand—are also susceptible to Panama disease. When the malady

hits, it is always devastating. The difference is that these are *local* bananas. They may provide sustenance for an entire Pakistani state or a single village in Uganda, but because their growing area is limited, many outbreaks simply reach a dead end.

From BANANA: THE FATE OF THE FRUIT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD by Dan Koeppel, copyright © 2008 by Dan Koeppel. Used by permission of Hudson Street Press, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) LLC.

1. Part A

What is the meaning of **virulent** as it is used in paragraph 2?

- A. known to be unpredictable
- B. widespread in tropical climates
- C. able to cause harm
- D. responsive to preventative treatment

Part B

Which quotation from paragraph 2 **best** helps to clarify the answer to Part A?

- A. "But the Gros Michel disappeared."
- B. "The malady was discovered in Panama. . . ."
- C. "It is transmitted through soil and water."
- D. "Once it hits a plantation, it quickly destroys. . . ."

2. Part A

Paragraphs 1 and 2 introduce which central idea in the passage as a whole?

- A. The Cavendish is a more versatile banana than the Gros Michel.
- B. Bananas can be vulnerable to destructive ailments.
- C. Different species of bananas have distinct tastes and textures.
- D. The Gros Michel is a hardier species of banana than the Cavendish.

Part B

Select **two** quotations from the passage that more fully develop the answer to Part A.

- A. "A disease began to ravage banana crops not long after the first banana trees were planted in Central America." (paragraph 2)
- B. "It is also because bananas, at their core, are weak." (paragraph 3)
- C. "Our banana's thick skin makes the fruit tough enough to survive not only being stacked in boxes on the way to the grocery but also being tossed over the back of a mule in Ecuador or strapped in bunches to a motor scooter bumping through a humid, dense plantation in the Philippines." (paragraph 3)
- D. "There's a simple explanation for this, and you can find it—or, more accurately, can't find it—when you peel a banana: no seeds." (paragraph 4)
- E. "Every banana we eat is a genetic twin of every other, whether that banana is grown in Ecuador, where most of our fruit comes from; in the Canary Islands, which supply Europe; or in Australia, Taiwan, or Malaysia." (paragraph 4)
- F. "The process took decades." (paragraph 6)

3. Part A

How does paragraph 8 contribute to the author's overall discussion of bananas and disease?

- A. It explains an important limitation regarding the spread of Panama disease.
- B. It describes a historical shift concerning the potency of Panama disease.
- C. It warns of the increasing deadliness of new strains of Panama disease.
- D. It illustrates the successes of some regions at fighting the effects of Panama disease.

Part B

Which phrase from paragraph 8 emphasizes the answer to Part A?

- A. “. . . non-Cavendish varieties of bananas . . .”
- B. “. . . islands of the South Pacific . . .”
- C. “. . . provide sustenance . . .”
- D. “. . . reach a dead end.”

4. Based on the passage, identify which descriptions apply to the Cavendish variety of bananas only, the Gros Michel variety of bananas only, or both the Cavendish and Gros Michel varieties of bananas. Place check marks in the appropriate boxes.

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