

The **Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)** is a new test that will be administered in 2009.

Test Essentials

- ◆ Students in grades 3–8 **must** participate in PASS or the SC-Alt.
- ◆ All PASS items are aligned with the South Carolina Academic Standards.
- ◆ PASS consists of writing, English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies tests.
- ◆ PASS tests are **not** timed.
- ◆ All PASS tests contain multiple-choice test questions of varying degrees of difficulty. The writing test also includes one extended-response (writing) item.
- ◆ The writing test is given on two days in March, and the remaining tests are administered in May. See the schedule on the back page of this brochure.

Score Essentials

- ◆ Student results will be given as scale scores and performance levels for each test.
- ◆ Performance levels for each test are: Exemplary, Met, Not Met.
- ◆ Students will receive information for each standard on each test.

Tips for Parents

Parents can help children with test-taking preparation.

Do's:

- Encourage your child to do his/her best.
- Provide a quiet place for studying at home.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly.
- Meet with teachers and ask for activities that you and your child can do at home to prepare for tests.
- Make sure your child gets adequate sleep. A tired child is less able to pay attention or handle the demands of testing.
- Give your child well-balanced meals. Rest, exercise, and eating well are important for test-taking.

Don'ts:

- Get upset because of a single test score. Test scores are not perfect measures of what your child can do.
- Place so much emphasis on your child's test scores. Too much pressure can upset your child and influence test performance.
- Schedule appointments during testing week.

Sample Items

English Language Arts—Grade 3

Read the article. Then answer the question.

Most people know honey comes from a hive. But it takes a lot of work to make the sticky, sweet honey so many of us love to eat. Worker bees are one of three types of honeybees. They live in a colony, or hive, with drones and a queen. Worker bees are the smallest of these honeybees, but they do all the work! These busy bees visit 50 to 100 flowers each day to collect nectar. This sweet liquid produced by flowers is used to make honey. Worker bees then feed this nectar to the queen. They also must guard the entrance to the hive. The bees move their wings 11,400 times a minute to keep the hive cool. Moving their wings so fast causes the bees' familiar buzzing sound. So the next time you put some honey on your toast or biscuit, think about these hard-working honeybees.

1. What would be the **best** title for this article?

- A. A Taste of Honey
- B. Buzz, Buzz
- C. Busy Bees
- D. Fit for a Queen

Key = C

Writing—Grade 4

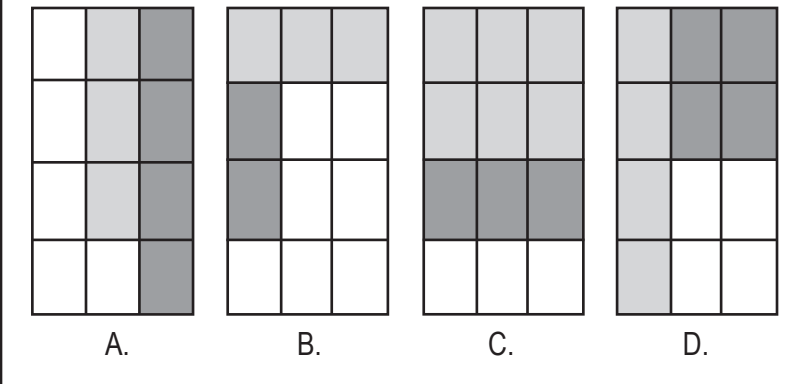
What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- A. If you were to ask everyone to identify a few of their favorite American athletes, Michael Jordan's name would surely be on the list.
- B. If you were to ask everyone to identify a few of his favorite American athletes, Michael Jordans' name would surely be on the list.
- C. If you were to ask everyone to identify a few of their favorite American athletes, Michael Jordans' name would surely be on the list.
- D. If you were to ask everyone to identify a few of his favorite American athletes, Michael Jordan's name would surely be on the list.

Key = D

Mathematics—Grade 5

Which figure models $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$?



Key = A

Science—Grade 4

A student did an investigation with earthworms.

- Moist soil was placed in the left half of a shoebox.
- Dry soil was placed in the right half of a shoebox.
- Six earthworms were placed where the two soils met.

After three minutes, the student recorded the direction in which the worms moved.

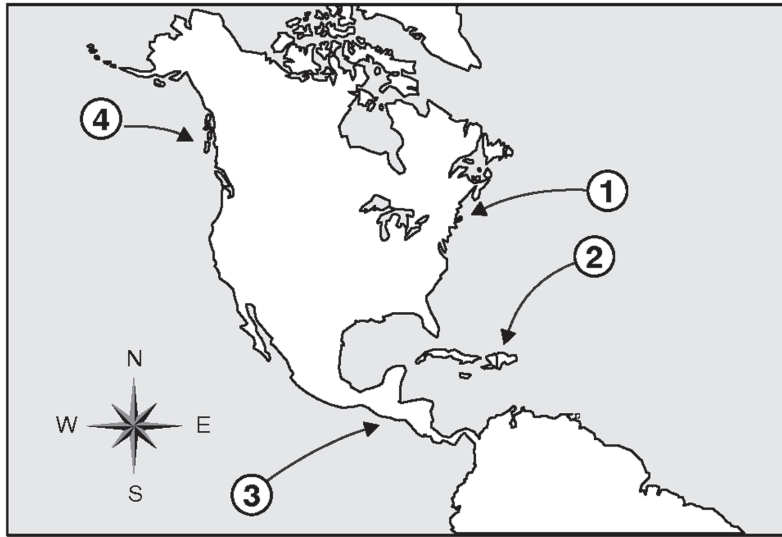
Which question was the student trying to answer?

- A. How do earthworms move in containers?
- B. Do earthworms like moist soil better than dry soil?
- C. How many minutes does it take for an earthworm to move?
- D. Do earthworms like shoeboxes or another type of container?

Key = B



Use the map to answer the question.



In 1492, Columbus set out to find a sea route to Asia. Which arrow on the map shows the area where Columbus first landed in the Americas?

- A. arrow 1
- B. arrow 2
- C. arrow 3
- D. arrow 4

Key = B



Links to Additional Information

For more detailed information about PASS, click on the *PASS Test Information* button on the home page of the South Carolina Department of Education Web site: <http://www.ed.sc.gov>.

In the pop-up window, click on *PASS Test Information* to open the Office of Assessment PASS Web page. The links for writing, English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies provide information about each test including blueprints (number and type of items on each test), sample items, the extended-response writing rubric, etc.

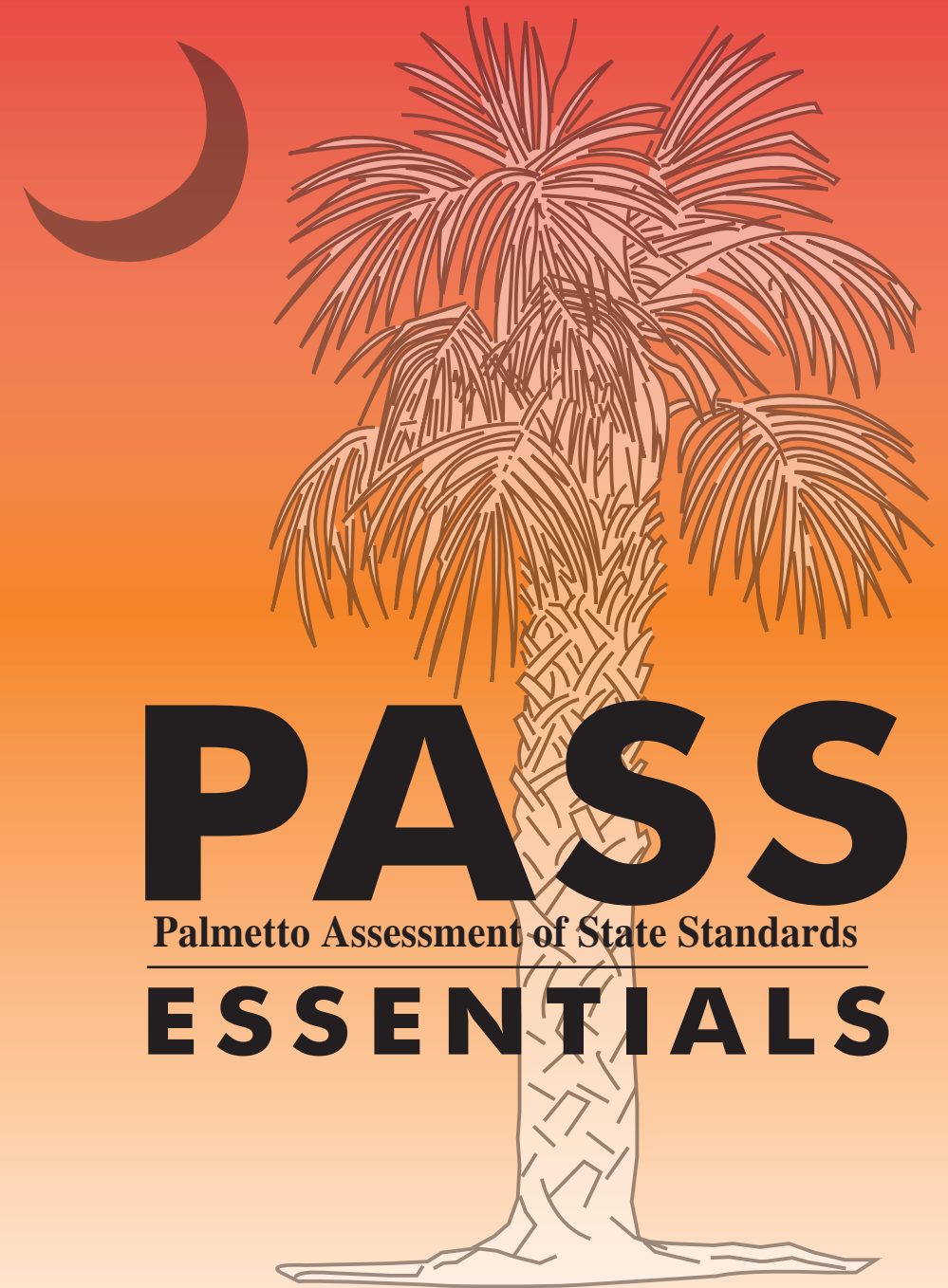
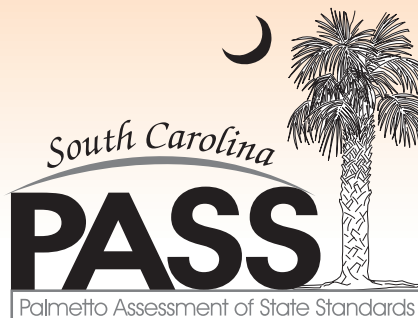
- ◆ Testing schedules
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/Accountability/Assessment/TestingDatesbyProgram.html>
- ◆ South Carolina academic standards and supporting documents
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/>



PASS 2009 Test Schedule

March 10 (Tuesday)	Writing, Day 1 (extended-response)
March 11 (Wednesday)	Writing, Day 2 (multiple-choice)
March 12 through March 17 Make-up tests for writing	
May 12 (Tuesday)	ELA (Reading and Research)
May 13 (Wednesday)	Mathematics
May 14 (Thursday)	Science or Social Studies*
May 15 (Friday)	Social Studies**
May 19 (Tuesday)	Field Tests
May 15***, 18, 20, 21, 22	Make-up Tests

* All students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 will take either the science or the social studies test on May 14. All students in grades 4 and 7 will take the science test.
 ** All students in grades 4 and 7 will take the social studies test on this date.
 *** May 15 is a make-up test date for students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 only.



A Brochure for Students and Parents



South Carolina Department of Education

Together, we can.