



# **Nebraska State Accountability**

**Grade 3  
Reading  
Practice Test**

Name:

**Directions:**

On the following pages are passages and multiple-choice questions for Grade 3 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.

Remember only one of the choices provided is the correct answer.

## Lisa and the Pigpen

Peter lived in a small town with his mama, papa, brothers, and sisters. Everyone had **chores**. Peter's job was to look after his youngest sister Lisa. Lisa was three years old and very curious. She liked to wander out of the house and play outside.

One day Peter and Lisa were playing hide-and-seek in the house, and the game turned into a chase.

Crash! Bang! Peter tripped and landed in the clothes basket on the kitchen floor.

Lisa fell on the floor beside him and laughed. "Do it again," begged Lisa.

"Oh, no," said Mama. "You two go outside with your chasing and stay out of my way. Don't get into trouble."

The children ran out the door into the sunshine. At that moment, Mr. Brown was leading his pig down the road. He was going to Ms. Smith's house to show her how big the pig had grown.

Lisa laughed and ran to catch up to Mr. Brown and his pig. Peter yelled after her.

"Where are you going?" Lisa asked Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown turned around and saw the little girl following him. "I am going to show my friend, Ms. Smith, how big my pig has grown."

"I'm going, too," said Lisa. She marched right along with Mr. Brown.

"Okay, I'm going, too," Peter sighed, and followed behind them.

When they arrived at Ms. Smith's house, Mr. Brown put his pig in the pigpen at the back of the house. Lisa followed Mr. Brown and his pig. When she saw the other pigs, she squealed with delight. The pigs squealed and oinked.

"Don't go in the pigpen, children," Mr. Brown said. Then he went in the house.

Lisa wanted to play with the pigs. She started across the pen to pet the pigs. On her way, she slipped in the mud and fell in a puddle. Lisa was wet from her head to her toes with black, dirty pigpen water. She splashed with her hands and kicked her feet, spreading mud all over her clothes. "I'm a pig! I'm a pig!" she squealed. "Come out of there right now, Lisa!" screamed Peter.

At that moment, Mr. Brown and Ms. Smith came outside. They heard the children shouting and the pigs squealing.

"Someone is in the pigpen with the pigs!" Ms. Smith exclaimed.

They went to the back of the house and found Lisa splashing in the water.

Peter was shouting at Lisa. “Lisa! Look at you! What will Mama say? You get out of there now!”

“I’m a pig!” said Lisa. She wouldn’t come out of the pigpen.

Peter crawled through the fence to get a hold of Lisa. Lisa ran from him. Peter slipped and fell in the black, dirty pigpen puddle.

“Oh, no! Now we’re both wet and dirty and smell like a pigpen!” Peter said.

Peter took Lisa’s arm and pulled her out of the pigpen. He held her hand and walked her home. Peter’s face was long and sad. He wondered what Mama would say. When they walked in the house, Mama looked up from her laundry. Her eyes grew large and her mouth opened wide. Then she laughed.

“You look and smell like two little pigs. Take off your dirty clothes. I have just enough water to wash the two of you. Your clothes are another matter. I will take care of those later.”

When the children were clean, Mama put Lisa in her bed for a nap. Peter went outside to sit and think. How was he going to keep Lisa out of trouble?

1. In the first paragraph, what word helps the reader know the meaning of **chores**?
  - A. wander
  - B. curious
  - C. look
  - D. job
  
2. Why do Mama’s eyes grow large and her mouth open wide?
  - A. She was angry at the children.
  - B. She saw Lisa in the clothes basket.
  - C. She did not know who the children were.
  - D. She saw the children covered with mud.

## READING

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3. Which word best describes Lisa?
- A. naughty
  - B. honest
  - C. helpful
  - D. thoughtful
4. Which pair of words are compound words?
- A. outside and laughed
  - B. sunshine and pigpen
  - C. laundry and pigpen
  - D. shouting and following
5. What is the main idea of the passage?
- A. Peter has a hard job watching his sister.
  - B. Ms. Smith likes to raise pigs.
  - C. Mama has a busy schedule.
  - D. Many people raise pigs.

6. Who are the main characters in the passage?
- A. Lisa and Mr. Brown
  - B. Mr. Brown and Mama
  - C. Peter and Lisa
  - D. Peter and the pig
7. What is the author's purpose for writing the passage?
- A. to inform the reader about chores for children
  - B. to persuade the reader to increase chore rates
  - C. to entertain about two children visiting a farm
  - D. to describe the benefits of living on a farm

## Wolves Home Again

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by Doug Shokes

Good things have come from bringing wolves back to Yellowstone National Park. One good thing is the return of two kinds of trees, which grow only near streams. They had nearly disappeared since the wolves were gone. There was a reason for this.

The wolves scare away elk, which are animals that eat trees growing out of the ground. Now elk avoid spending time near streams in the park. They have no place to run from wolves there. The trees that disappeared near streams now grow in the park.

Yellowstone National Park, “America’s first national park,” is in the northwest part of Wyoming. It spreads into Idaho and Montana. It became a park in 1872. The park is beautiful and has many visitors. The land was a home for wolves for a long time.

Wolves were common in the park at first. As time went on, the wolves began dying out. By 1926, no wolves could be found. People who lived near Yellowstone killed them because the wolves would eat the animals the people had raised to sell.

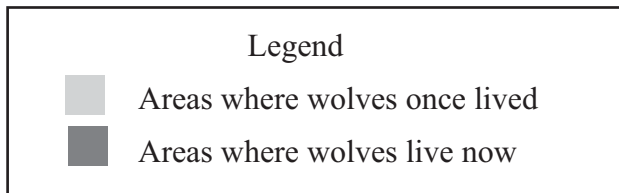
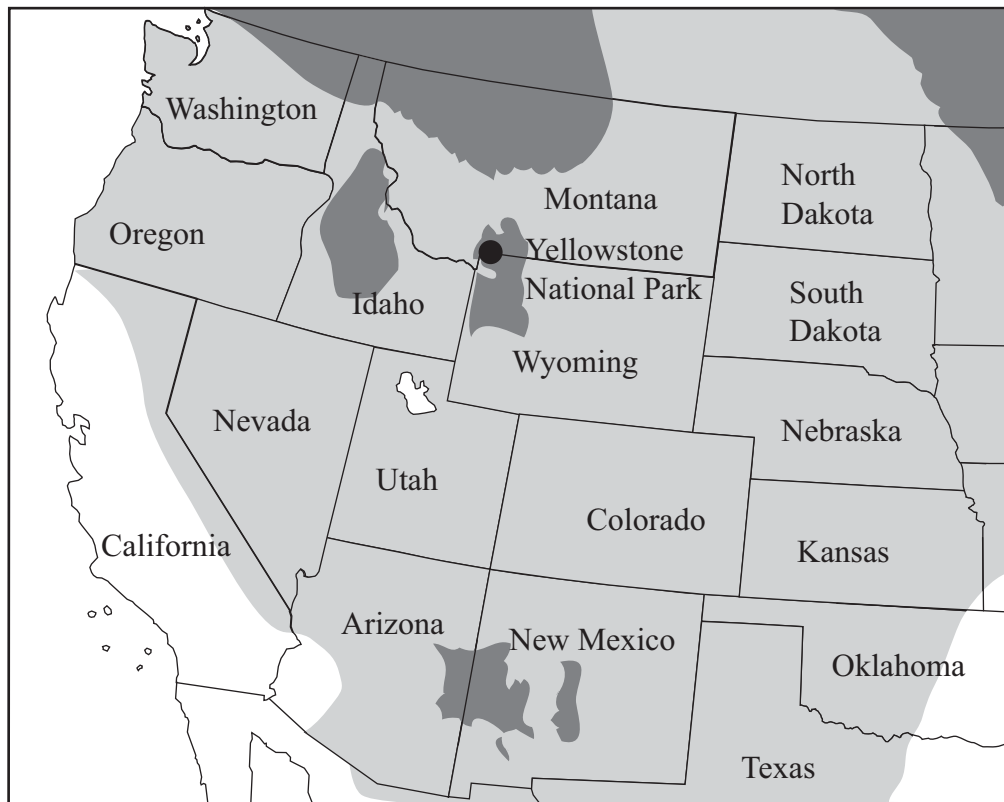
In 1995, many people joined forces to bring back the wolves. They were people who cared about animals and the health of the land. At first, this was only a dream since there were no wolves in the park!

Wolves were in Canada, which is north of the United States. People went to Canada to capture wolves. They brought them back to the park and let them go. They kept close track of the wolves’ actions. When a wolf died, they would figure out the reason. A lot was done to protect the wolves from harm.

Yet, ranchers also complained that the wolves were eating their animals. In 1997, they tried to get rid of the wolves by passing a law to remove them from the park. The law was never passed.

Now, there are many wolves in Yellowstone National Park. The land is **healthier**, and the wolves have their home back.

Gray Wolf Territory



8. What is the singular form of the word **wolves**?
- A. wolf
  - B. wolfs
  - C. wolfes
  - D. wolve



## READING

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9. What is the author informing the reader of in the passage?
- A. wolves living in Canada
  - B. wolves bringing good things to Yellowstone National Park
  - C. wolves eating elk and ranch animals
  - D. wolves being hunted in Yellowstone National Park
10. According to the passage, Yellowstone National Park is located in what three states?
- A. Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana
  - B. Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah
  - C. Wyoming, Nebraska, and Idaho
  - D. Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado
11. Why were wolves killed by people who lived near Yellowstone?
- A. They were eating the ranchers' animals.
  - B. Park visitors were hurt by them.
  - C. They became sick and died.
  - D. A law was passed to hunt them.
12. How did the wolves return to Yellowstone?
- A. People brought them back from Canada.
  - B. They swam across the stream.
  - C. The ranchers quit killing them.
  - D. They came in from Colorado.

13. Why did the people keep track of the wolves' actions?
- A. to capture the wolves
  - B. to watch the wolves hunt
  - C. to protect the wolves from harm
  - D. to keep the ranchers' animals safe
14. Which word means the opposite of **harm** in this sentence? "A lot was done to protect the wolves from **harm**."
- A. hurt
  - B. injury
  - C. pain
  - D. safety
15. "The land is **healthier**, and the wolves have their home back." What does the word **healthier** mean?
- A. not healthy
  - B. more healthy
  - C. less healthy
  - D. somewhat healthy

### **Grade 3 Practice Test Answers**

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