



Georgia CRCT-M

Sample Items

Grade 7

READING



Original CRCT

Grade 7 Passage & Items

READING

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You Are Invited



Imagine being invited to such a festival! If you were invited to a castle in the 1500s, you would have been in for an unbelievable fill of food and fancy. This is a menu that might have been offered at a celebration at a royal castle about five hundred years ago in Europe.

Castles were the center of royal life in the Middle Ages. Castles were like miniature towns because they took care of all the needs of the king and his subjects. Kings and queens ruled their kingdoms from the security of their castles, which often had several buildings. Within each

castle lived tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, and other artisans. All the servants and soldiers likewise had quarters within a castle's boundaries.

It may seem that living in a castle in the Middle Ages was elegant and effortless. Actually, the opposite is true. Conditions in the Middle Ages were harsh compared to modern-day standards. There was no central heat in castles, so most rooms were very cold and damp. The castle's structure was designed to protect, so the windows were small and few. This did not allow for much fresh air or bright light. Moreover, residents of a castle had to perform many chores to keep the castle protected and running. Workdays in this time period were long, beginning at the break of dawn and lasting until nightfall.

Perhaps to make up for such trying days, the people of the Middle Ages played as hard as they worked. Dinner was a time of great feasting, often accompanied by entertainment. Lords of a castle would really go the extra mile, trying to impress their guests with their wealth and generosity. All great feasts were well planned, and you can be sure that the castle chef was cooking all day long so that guests could indulge themselves well into the night. Sometimes celebrations would last for days, and each feast would be just as impressive as the one that came before.

Whether inside the great hall of the castle or outside on the castle grounds, many different entertainers participated in royal festivals. There would be musicians playing instruments, minstrels singing, jesters making faces, acrobats balancing on swords, jugglers juggling daggers, and entertainers entangling their arms and legs! There were also games and knightly contests of skill. Guests could participate in the games, listen to stories, or dance to music.

In addition to the entertainment, people used to enjoy massive amounts of food from the lord's table. For crowds of 6,000 or more, cooks would prepare 104 oxen, 2,000 geese, 6 wild bulls, 304 calves, 300 quarters of wheat, 104 peacocks, 2,000 pigs, 1,500 venison pies, 13,000 dishes of jelly, baked tarts, custards, spices, and more!

Some great stone castles can still be found across Europe in countries such as Great Britain, Ireland, and France. People can go to these castles simply to learn about the Middle Ages or to let their imaginations carry them back to festivals of days past!

READING

1. Which statement BEST summarizes what castle celebrations in the Middle Ages were like?
 - A. They lasted for days.
 - B. They were elegant and effortless.
 - C. They showed off the talents of the castle's artisans.
 - * D. They were filled with food, entertainment, and hard work.

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?
 - A. to describe a typical castle dinner
 - B. to explain the hardships of the Middle Ages
 - C. to explain the role of the king during a festival
 - * D. to describe castle festivals during the Middle Ages

3. What does the word *indulge* mean as used in the sentence below?

All great feasts were well planned, and you can be sure that the castle chef was cooking all day long so that guests could indulge themselves well into the night.

 - A. calm
 - * B. enjoy
 - C. humor
 - D. impress

4. What is the purpose of the picture at the beginning of the passage?
 - A. to introduce the festivities at Baltimore Castle
 - B. to introduce Lord Dudley and Queen Elizabeth
 - * C. to illustrate an invitation to a royal festival during the Middle Ages
 - D. to illustrate the massive amounts of food people enjoyed during the Middle Ages

5. What is the message the author conveys about the life of a chef during a royal celebration?
 - A. The chef was generous.
 - * B. The days were long and difficult.
 - C. There was time for fun activities.
 - D. There were limited chores for the chef.



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Castles were the center of royal life in the Middle Ages. Castles were like small towns because they took care of all the needs of the king and his subjects. Kings and queens ruled their kingdoms from the security of their castles, which often had several buildings. Within each castle lived tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, and other artisans. All the servants and soldiers likewise had quarters within a castle's boundaries.

It may seem that living in a castle in the Middle Ages was elegant and effortless. Actually, the opposite is true. Conditions in the Middle Ages were harsh compared to modern-day life. There was no central heat in castles, so most rooms were very cold and damp. The castle's structure was designed to protect, so the windows were small and few. This did not allow for much fresh air or bright light. Moreover, residents of a castle had to perform many chores to keep the castle protected and running. Workdays in this time period were long, beginning at the break of dawn and lasting until nightfall.

The people of the Middle Ages played as hard as they worked. The lords of a castle tried to impress their guests with their wealth and generosity. Great feasts were well planned. The castle chef would cook all day long so that guests could indulge themselves well into the night. People used to enjoy massive amounts of food from the lord's table. For crowds of 6,000 or more, cooks would prepare 104 oxen, 2,000 geese, 6 wild bulls, 304 calves, 300 quarters of wheat, 104 peacocks, 2,000 pigs, 1,500 deer-meat pies, 13,000 dishes of jelly, baked tarts, custards, spices, and more! In addition to food, feasts had entertainment.

READING

Inside the great hall of the castle or outside on the castle grounds, many different entertainers participated in royal festivals. There would be musicians playing instruments, minstrels singing, jesters making faces, acrobats balancing on swords, jugglers juggling daggers, and entertainers entangling their arms and legs! There were also games and knightly contests of skill. Guests could participate in the games, listen to stories, or dance to music. Sometimes these celebrations would last for days.

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The castle chef would cook all day long so that guests could indulge themselves well into the night.

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4. What is the purpose of the picture at the beginning of the passage?
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- A. The chef was generous.
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Item Sequence	Georgia Performance Standard	KEY
1	<p>Domain: Information and Media Literacy ELA7RC2. The student participates in discussions related to curricular learning in all subject areas. The student:</p> <p>a. Identifies messages and themes from books in all subject areas.</p>	D
2	<p>Domain: Information and Media Literacy ELA7RC2. The student participates in discussions related to curricular learning in all subject areas. The student:</p> <p>e. Examines the author’s purpose in writing.</p>	D
3	<p>Domain: Reading Skills and Vocabulary Acquisition ELA7RC3. The student acquires new vocabulary in each content area and uses it correctly. The student:</p> <p>c. Explores understanding of new words found in subject area texts.</p>	B
4	<p>Domain: Information and Media Literacy ELA7RC2. The student participates in discussions related to curricular learning in all subject areas. The student:</p> <p>f. Recognizes and uses the features of disciplinary texts (e.g., charts, graphs, photos, maps, highlighted vocabulary).</p>	C
5	<p>Domain: Information and Media Literacy ELA7RC2. The student participates in discussions related to curricular learning in all subject areas. The student:</p> <p>a. Identifies messages and themes from books in all subject areas.</p>	B

Item Sequence	Commentary
Passage	You will see that this passage has been edited. While the essence of the story has been preserved, the reading load for the student has been reduced from 498 words to 453.
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The font size was increased both in the passage and in the items. • The line spacing was increased between paragraphs within a passage and also between items.
1	No changes have been made.
2	No changes have been made.
3	The sentence in the text box has been changed based on the edits to the original passage.
4	No changes have been made.
5	The word conveys was replaced with the word tells.