



Grade 3

Weekly Assessments

Read the article “Beatrix Potter: Lover of Nature” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

Beatrix Potter: Lover of Nature

Some people love nature. They spend time in it, draw about it, and write about it. Beatrix Potter was like that. Beatrix was born long ago, on July 28, 1866. She lived in a large house in London, England. In those days, well-to-do little girls did not go to school. They were taught at home. Beatrix was no different, and her parents hired a teacher to teach her reading, writing, art, and music.

Beatrix had a little brother named Bertram. Both she and her brother had a schoolroom in the house where they studied. But when Bertram was six, he went away to school. After that, Beatrix was very lonesome since her parents did not allow other children to play with her. So Beatrix was on her own in a very big house. She spent a lot of this time drawing and painting.

During the summers, the Potter family left the noisy city and went to the country. Beatrix loved her time in nature. In the city, the children’s freedom was limited. In the country, they could play freely, exploring the forests and meadows. All the time, Beatrix and Bertram drew pictures of everything they saw. They even caught wild animals and tamed them! Some of them they kept as pets. They had rabbits, a snake, a green frog, a tortoise, and two lizards.

Beatrix and Bertram kept a collection of the animals in her schoolroom in London. Beatrix watched them play and eat. She watched them sleep and move. She sketched them constantly. Two of Beatrix’s favorite pets were rabbits. She named one Peter Piper and the other Benjamin Bouncer. She often took the rabbits outside on a leash.

When Beatrix was 27, she wrote a letter to a five-year-old child named Noel. Noel was sick, and she wanted to cheer him up. She did not know what to write to the boy. So she remembered her pet rabbits, and an idea came to her out of the blue. She drew pictures of four rabbits and wrote a story about them. It was a great success, and Noel loved it! Later, she made the story into a book called "The Tale of Peter Rabbit." Children enjoyed the story about a naughty rabbit that steals lettuce from a farmer and disobeys his mother. More and more books were printed.

Beatrix wrote other books. Benjamin Bouncer became another rabbit in her stories. She called him Benjamin Bunny. She moved to Hill Top Farm, where she wrote many of her stories. She wrote about the animals on her farm. She made up stories about ducks, hens, dogs, mice, kittens, and cats. She also became a skilled artist. She drew lovely, detailed pictures of plants, mushrooms, and animals. In all, Beatrix Potter wrote 22 excellent books for children.

Beatrix loved the countryside and wanted to protect it. So she bought many acres of land with lakes and forests. She died in 1943, but she left her farms and land to the government. Today this land is still protected. You can even visit Hill Top Farm where she once lived.



Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on
“Beatrix Potter: Lover of Nature.”

- 1** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Which sentence **best** describes the main idea of the article?

- ☐ **A** Beatrix Potter had many animals that she loved to draw.
- ☐ **B** Beatrix Potter loved animals and wrote stories about them.
- ☐ **C** Beatrix Potter liked the country because she could play freely.
- ☐ **D** Beatrix Potter wrote a story to a sick little boy to cheer him up.

Part B: Which sentence from the article **best** supports your answer in part A?

- ☐ **A** “She lived in a large house in London, England.”
- ☐ **B** “All the time, Beatrix and Bertram drew pictures of everything they saw.”
- ☐ **C** “Noel was sick, and she wanted to cheer him up.”
- ☐ **D** “She made up stories about ducks, hens, dogs, mice, kittens, and cats.”

2 Read the sentences from the article.

But when Bertram was six, he went away to school. After that, Beatrix was very lonesome since her parents did not allow other children to play with her.

Which word shares the **same** root as lonesome?

- (A)** escape
- (B)** lonely
- (C)** longhand
- (D)** oneself

3 Circle **three** sentences that belong in a summary of the article.**Summary of Article**

Beatrix explored forests as a child.

Beatrix wrote many books for children.

Beatrix had a brother named Bertram.

Beatrix became a skilled artist.

Beatrix loved nature and animals.

- 4** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the article.

Beatrix and Bertram kept a collection of the animals in her schoolroom in London.

What does the word collection tell about the animals?

- (A)** They were all small.
- (B)** They were all very pretty.
- (C)** There was a group of them.
- (D)** There were very few of them.

Part B: Which word has the same root as collection?

- (A)** collector
- (B)** color
- (C)** contribution
- (D)** corruption

- 5** Choose **two** sentences from the article that show the author's point of view.

- (A)** "In those days, well-to-do little girls did not go to school."
- (B)** "Both she and her brother had a schoolroom in the house where they studied."
- (C)** "In the city, the children's freedom was limited."
- (D)** "They had rabbits, a snake, a green frog, a tortoise, and two lizards."
- (E)** "Later, she made the story into a book called 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit.'"
- (F)** "In all, Beatrix Potter wrote 22 excellent books for children."

Read the article “Plants and People” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Plants and People

Plants grow almost everywhere there is land on Earth. Even in a city, you will find plants. Trees grow along streets. Grass grows in parks. Weeds grow through cracks in the sidewalk. And that is a good thing because plants give off the oxygen we all breathe. Plants do more than that, however. People have found many uses for this green life that shares our planet.

People use plants for food. Crisp green lettuce, crunchy orange carrots, and yellow sweet corn taste delicious. Juicy apples, blueberries, and oranges make our mouths water. In fact, plants make food for the whole planet. Without plants to eat, people and other animals could not live.

People also wear cloth that is made from plants. Cotton comes from the white puffy seeds of the cotton plant. How many of your clothes are made from cotton? Linen is a soft, light material made from the flax plant. Rayon is another cloth that is made from a plant. A rayon shirt is soft, smooth, and cool.

Another obvious use of plants is for building and making things. Wood comes from trees, and wood is used to build houses and make furniture. Reeds are also useful in making objects. People have woven reeds into baskets and mats for thousands of years. The rubber in your eraser and the cork in a bulletin board come from plants as well.

Many plants are useful for just one thing. Others have almost countless uses. Take bamboo, for example. This strong yet light grass grows very tall very quickly. You can eat it. You can wear it. You can use it to build everything from a bridge to a bike. People have even built cars from bamboo!

Medicine is probably the least known use for plants. Most people have heard of aspirin. Many people take this medicine for pain or when they have a fever. Most people do not know that this medicine comes from plants. Aspirin is made from the bark of the willow tree. Another drug called quinine is made from tree bark. It is used to treat malaria. Malaria is a very serious disease, but it is treatable thanks to plants. People who live in warm climates can get the disease from mosquito bites. Now scientists are testing a new drug to treat this illness. The new medicine comes from a plant, too.

Plants provide so much for people. We should not forget one other important thing plants give us. They give us beauty! Imagine a world without colorful flowers, tall trees, and swaying grasses. Is that a world you would want to live in?



Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on
“Plants and People.”

- 6 Complete the chart with the main idea of the article and two details that support the main idea. Write the correct sentences from the box. Not all sentences will be used.

Main Idea	Supporting Details

Sentences:

People use plants for food.

People see trees along streets.

People use plants to build things.

People have found many uses for plants.

People often have heard of aspirin as a medicine.

- 7 Read the sentences from the article.

Reeds are also useful in making objects. People have woven reeds into baskets and mats for thousands of years.

Which word has the **same** root word as useful?

- Ⓐ fully
- Ⓑ reuse
- Ⓒ selfish
- Ⓓ usually

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8 Read the paragraph from the article.

Many plants are useful for just one thing. Others have almost countless uses. Take bamboo, for example. This strong yet light grass grows very tall very quickly. You can eat it. You can wear it. You can use it to build everything from a bridge to a bike. People have even built cars from bamboo!

Which statement **best** summarizes the main idea of the paragraph?

- ☐ (A) Bamboo has many uses for people.
- ☐ (B) Bamboo has even been used to build cars.
- ☐ (C) Bamboo is strong yet light enough to carry.
- ☐ (D) Bamboo grows tall and quickly for farmers to harvest.

9 Read the sentences from the article.

Malaria is a very serious disease, but it is treatable thanks to plants.

Which word has the same root word as treatable?

- ☐ (A) eaten
- ☐ (B) timetable
- ☐ (C) treatment
- ☐ (D) usable

- 10** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the paragraph from the article.

Medicine is probably the least known use for plants. Most people have heard of aspirin. Many people take this medicine for pain or when they have a fever. Most people do not know that this medicine comes from plants. Aspirin is made from the bark of the willow tree. Another drug called quinine is made from tree bark. It is used to treat malaria. Malaria is a very serious disease, but it is treatable thanks to plants. People who live in warm climates can get the disease from mosquito bites. Now scientists are testing a new drug to treat this illness. The new medicine comes from a plant, too.

Which sentence **best** states the main idea of the paragraph?

- ☐ (A) Plants have many uses for people.
- ☐ (B) Plants are used to develop medicines.
- ☐ (C) Medicines are similar to plants in many ways.
- ☐ (D) There are many plants that we have not discovered yet.

Part B: Pick **two** details that would **best** support the main idea of this paragraph.

- ☐ (A) Mosquitos come from warm climates.
- ☐ (B) Some plants have very strange names.
- ☐ (C) Scientists study plants for new medicines.
- ☐ (D) People can buy their medicine in local markets.
- ☐ (E) There is often more than one medicine for an illness.
- ☐ (F) People chew the bark of the willow tree to get rid of headaches.



Now answer Number 11. Base your answer on “Beatrix Potter: Lover of Nature” and “Plants and People.”

- [illegible]

Question	Correct Answer	Content Focus	CCSS	Complexity
1A	B	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.3.2	DOK 2
1B	D	Main Idea and Key Details/Text Evidence	RI.3.2/ RI.3.1	DOK 2
2	B	Root Words	L.3.4c	DOK 1
3	see below	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.3.2	DOK 2
4A	C	Root Words	L.3.4c	DOK 1
4B	A	Root Words	L.3.4c	DOK 1
5	C, F	Author's Point of View	RI.3.6	DOK 3
6	see below	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.3.2	DOK 2
7	B	Root Words	L.3.4c	DOK 1
8	A	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.3.2	DOK 2
9	C	Root Words	L.3.4c	DOK 1
10A	B	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.3.2	DOK 2
10B	C, F	Main Idea and Key Details/Text Evidence	RI.3.2/ RI.3.1	DOK 2
11	see below	Writing About Text	W.3.8	DOK 4

Comprehension 1A, 1B, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10A, 10B	/12	%
Vocabulary 2, 4A, 4B, 7, 9	/8	%
Total Weekly Assessment Score	/20	%

- 3 Students should circle the following sentences to include in a summary:
- Beatrix wrote many books for children.
 - Beatrix became a skilled artist.
 - Beatrix loved nature and animals.
- 6 Students should complete the chart as follows:
- Main Idea—People have found many uses for plants.
 - Supporting Details—People use plants for food.; People use plants to build things.
- 11 To receive full credit for the response, the following information should be included: Student responses should focus on the following main ideas and provide text evidence: Beatrix Potter's love of nature inspired her to write many books and protect her land. In the article "Plants and People," the author shows that plants provide us with many things that improve our lives.