

Grade 3

Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division

Student Booklet Language

1

SPRING 2008

RELEASED SELECTIONS AND
ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Please note: The format of these booklets is slightly different from that used for the assessment. The items themselves remain the same.

Canada's Dollar Coins

The Royal Canadian Mint has made all of Canada's coins since it opened in 1908. The Mint is located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's capital city, and in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



The first two-dollar coin shows the image of a polar bear in its natural setting. It was designed by artist Brent Townsend. The “toonie” was first put into banks on February 19, 1996, to replace the two-dollar bill.

The first one-dollar coin shows the image of a loon, a bird famous for its spooky-sounding song. Canadians called it the “loonie” because of the loon on one side. The loonie came out for the first time in 1987, and was a replacement for the one-dollar bill.



There is a sock I keep under my bed full of loonies and toonies that I find or get from helping other people do small jobs. When I am 16 I will count them all, and if there is enough money in my sock, I will get my driver's licence.

Simon

I'm saving all of the coins I earn in a big pickle jar. When I am finished high school I want to be a chef. I like to cook, so I'll use my coin collection to pay for college.

Ling

I used to collect pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Now I try to collect only one- and two-dollar coins, because they are worth more money. I don't like to spend money on candy, so I am going to save up until I have enough to buy a book by my favourite author.

Lily



- 1** As it is used in the text, the word “mint” means a
- type of spooky bird.
 - flavour used in foods.
 - place where coins are made.
 - story about Canadian money.
- 2** Where would a reader look to find out what Ling is doing with her coins?
- in the title
 - in a picture
 - in a text box
 - in a speech bubble
- 3** According to the text, which student likes to read for pleasure?
- Lily
 - Ling
 - Brent
 - Simon
- 4** The purpose of this text is to
- describe the Royal Canadian Mint.
 - tell about the artist Brent Townsend.
 - give information about Canadian coins.
 - show how three children collect Canadian coins.

5 Explain why Canada’s dollar coins are called “loonies” and “toonies.” Use details from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

6 Explain whether or not “Polar Bears and Loons” would be a good title for this text. Use specific details and examples from the text to support your answer.

Pencils

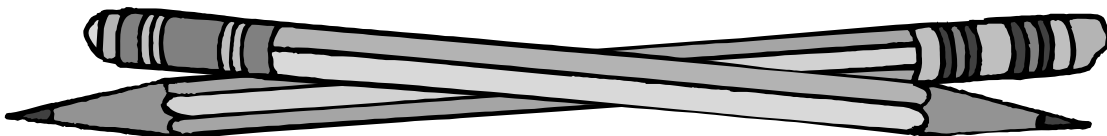
Stop writing and look at what's in your hand. Have you ever thought about that pencil you're holding? Do you know that it can write underwater? Do you know that one pencil can write thousands and thousands of words? 1

A long time ago, in ancient Rome, people wrote with a thin metal rod called a stylus. Styluses were often made of lead. That's why we call the dark grey part of the pencil "the lead," even though it's not made of lead any more. 2

Pencils are now made of graphite. Graphite is similar to lead but it is darker and it breaks very easily. People used to wrap string around the graphite to hold it together, but that didn't work very well. Soon they started making wooden cases for it. We still use wood holders for our graphite. Usually the wood is cedar and it has a very nice smell. You should try smelling your pencil the next time you sharpen it! 3

What happens if you make a mistake while you are writing with a pencil? Pencil makers have thought of that. At the far end of your pencil, you'll find one of its most important parts: the eraser. It's made of rubber and is usually pink. Pencil makers call it a plug. But whatever you want to call it, you're probably happy it's there! 4

Now you can get back to using your graphite holder. A single pencil can draw a line almost 60 kilometres long. You'd better get writing! 5



7 In paragraph 3, graphite is described as being like

- lead.
- string.
- metal.
- rubber.

8 Which is an example of a graphite holder?

- a metal rod
- a stick of lead
- a wooden case
- a piece of rubber

9 The sentence “You should try smelling your pencil the next time you sharpen it!” shows

- relief.
- confusion.
- encouragement.
- disappointment.

10 Which sentence best describes the text?

- It is an article about pencils.
- It is a story about a pencil maker.
- It is a poem about writing with pencils.
- It is a journal entry about a favourite pencil.

11 Describe how the writing tool in this text has changed over time. Use details and examples from the text to support your answer.

12 In what ways are the styluses described in the text different from crayons? Use details and examples from the text to support your answer.

13 Write instructions for a procedure that describes how to brush your teeth.

Ideas for My Instructions

Remember:

- Check over your work.
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

- 14** There are many ways that people can get to different places. In a paragraph, name one way for people to travel and explain why it is a good way to travel.

Ideas for My Paragraph

Remember:

- Check over your work.
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

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