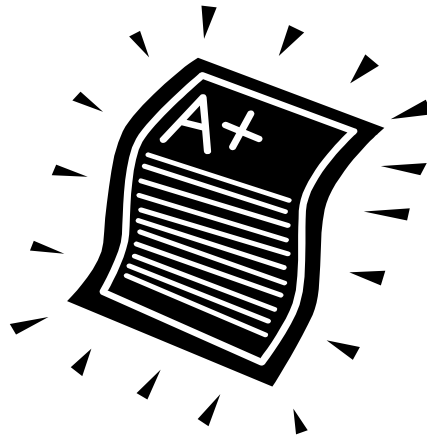


11th Grade Reading/Language Arts Assessment

Name: _____
Date: _____
School: _____
District: _____



*Increasing Achievement for Schools,
Teachers, & Students*

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 12.

Alabama, Our 22nd State

Alabama is a Southern state. Alabama joined the Union as the twenty-second state in 1819. Montgomery is Alabama's capital, and Birmingham is its largest city. The state bird is the Yellowhammer, and the Camellia is the state flower. Huntsville, also known as "Rocket City," gained worldwide fame when it produced the first manned rocket to the moon. Montgomery gained repute in the 1950's as the starting place of the twentieth century Civil Rights movement.

People who like red clay and rolling hills love the Alabama countryside. The state also has beaches, mountains, farmland, and pine forests. Alabama is ringed by Georgia to the east, Tennessee to the north, and Mississippi to the west. The state slopes from the Appalachian Mountains in the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south. The elevation ranges from 1,800 feet above sea level in the mountains near the Georgia border to exact sea level at the edge of the Gulf.

Before it became a state, Alabama was a colony of Spain, France, and Britain. When the Spanish arrived there in the 1500's, Alabama was occupied by Native-Americans. One tribe occupying Alabama was the Creek Indians. France took some areas of the state from Spain. France later gave up its holdings to Britain. After that, the Spanish returned and took control of the Mobile Bay area. Then, the United States bought Alabama as a part of the Louisiana Purchase. The Creek Indians fought the U. S. soldiers until Andrew Jackson's forces defeated them in 1813.

The railroads built during the Reconstruction Period after the Civil War were a major spur to industrializing Alabama's economy. Birmingham was founded in 1870 and began operating its first blast furnace in 1880. The cotton textile industry also developed during that period. At that time, farming was still dominant, and the fortunes of the state rose and fell with the market price of cotton.

Industrialization in Alabama increased greatly during World War II. Factories were built to manufacture gunpowder, munitions, and machinery. Huntsville opened a center for rocket research and commerce, and their industrialization grew. About this time, Alabama began a program to increase transportation of goods by water, as well as to build dams to generate electricity.

Alabama is known for having lots of rivers, even though it has very few natural lakes. Fifty miles of swampy delta area can be found at the mouth of the Mobile River in the Mobile Bay area along the Gulf of Mexico. The river, which is 315 miles long, is formed by a confluence of several other rivers, which join together further north. Together, these rivers are an important mover of farm products, lumber, and manufactured goods through the state.

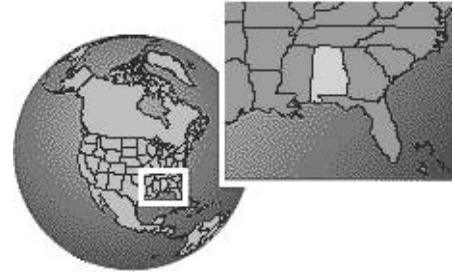
Alabama, the thirtieth largest state, ranks twenty-fifth in total state gross products. Agricultural products include poultry and eggs, peanuts, cotton, milk, vegetables, cattle, nursery stock, and soybeans. Industrial products include rubber and plastic products, apparel, paper, wood products, and transportation equipment. Alabama also offers commercial fishing products and mining products, such as coal, mining ore, and limestone.

Alabama, Our 22nd State

Today, Alabama welcomes manufacturing industries. One of its greatest successes in this area has come from the opening of a Mercedes-Benz automobile assembly plant in the state during the 1990's. **Diversification** is the key to future economic success in the state, and Alabama is working in that direction.

1. Another good title for this passage would be:
 - A. The Rivers of Alabama
 - B. Industrial Products of Alabama
 - C. The Many Characteristics of Alabama
 - D. none of the above

2. Which is **not** a product of Alabama?
 - A. poultry
 - B. paper
 - C. phosphate
 - D. none of the above



3. Who occupied Alabama before the Spanish?
 - A. the French
 - B. Native-Americans
 - C. the British
 - D. none of the above
4. What is the main difference between Northern and Southern Alabama?
 - A. products
 - B. weather
 - C. elevation
 - D. none of the above
5. What caused industrialization to increase greatly in Alabama?
 - A. the invasion of the Spanish
 - B. World War II
 - C. the demise of agriculture
 - D. none of the above
6. What can you infer about Alabama's economic future?
 - A. It is tied to steel manufacturing.
 - B. It will be brighter because of agriculture.
 - C. It can be bettered through diversity.
 - D. none of the above

7. From information in paragraph six, you could conclude that:
 - A. much of Alabama is a swamp
 - B. Alabama is known for its beaches
 - C. the waterways are important to the economy
 - D. none of the above

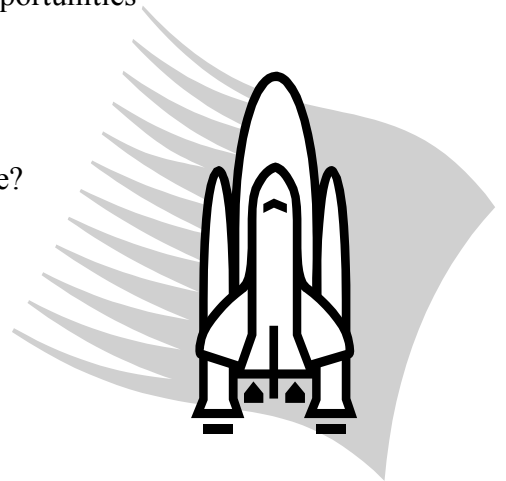
8. From its use in the passage, what do you think **diversification** means?
 - A. uniformity
 - B. most important
 - C. variety
 - D. none of the above

9. Why did the author mention the Mercedes-Benz plant?
 - A. Because Mercedes-Benz is an expensive automobile.
 - B. Because the Mercedes-Benz plant is located in Mobile Bay.
 - C. Because the plant is a success story for the state.
 - D. none of the above

10. The best summary of this passage is:
 - A. Alabama is a typical U.S. state.
 - B. Alabama is well-known for tourism.
 - C. Alabama is stagnating economically.
 - D. none of the above

11. The main idea of the second paragraph is:
 - A. that Alabama offers a wide-range of scenery
 - B. that Alabama is known for its mountain climbing opportunities
 - C. that Alabama is the perfect place for water sports
 - D. none of the above

12. How are mountain elevations and sea level elevations alike?
 - A. They look pretty much the same.
 - B. They are not alike at all.
 - C. Most people don't care for either one.
 - D. none of the above



Read the following selection. Then answer questions 13 through 28.

Cassie's Journal

MONDAY

I can hardly believe that I found myself jammed into the gigantic, deafeningly noisy lobby of Hansboro High School with what seemed like a thousand babbling kids this morning. Not to mention that there were, unbelievably, not one, but three hallways leading away from the oversized lobby, which made me exceedingly more unhappy. In fact, I could barely manage to contemplate the subject of which corridor led to my new homeroom, much less ascertain which side of the hall that might be located. I am truly furious at myself for not exploring the building when I had an opportunity on Friday, instead of being so anxious to return home and continue unpacking after I saw my counselor to register for classes. "Thank goodness this is an abbreviated day," I said to myself.

Anyway, after the bell rang, I began shuffling along with the crowd toward the corridors at the back of the lobby, actually allowing myself to be carried along, if the truth be told. I was eventually **deposited**, without being able to make a choice, at the entrance to the middle hallway, where I got a split-second opportunity to pause and look around in what could truly be termed abject confusion. But I looked to no avail for room fourteen. Then I was nearly knocked off my feet when someone shoved me hard in the back, and an idiotic guy yelled into my ear, "Comin' through! Move it, move it, move it!"

Of course, I turned angrily around to protest such outrageous behavior on his part, but as I did, I saw to my immense relief that the number fourteen was posted on a nearby door off to my right. I nearly fainted at being granted a reprieve from stumbling through the halls forever and quickly made my way to the open doorway. At that instant, however, I caught sight of the short, skinny guy who shoved so rudely past me in the hall. Turning to face the obnoxious, little twerp, I said, "You almost knocked me down." He looked up at me, shrugged indifferently, and he said, "You look big enough to take care of yourself to me." I opened my mouth to tell him exactly what I thought about him *and* Hansboro High School, but he zipped immediately inside the room, where he began waving and calling out to everyone. Like it's *my* fault I'm five-foot-eight inches tall, and *his* stupid growth hormones hadn't kicked in yet! Eventually, I found a desk off in a back corner and slid quickly into it, wishing fervently that I were anywhere else in the entire world and wondering miserably how I would ever make it through the day.

"Good morning, everyone. I'm Mr. Antonio," said a tall man with a cheerful expression. "Welcome to eleventh grade. We have a lot of first-day business to cover, but before we begin, I want our new arrival, Cassie Sloan, to come up front." It would be an understatement to confess that an icy-hand clutched my heart at that moment, as everyone in the class swiveled in their seats to scrutinize me, the one and only unfamiliar person in the room. "Come on, Cassie. We won't bite," Mr. Antonio insisted with a chuckle.

Barely a moment later, I found myself standing at the front of the room, knees shaking, while he gave a silly, little speech welcoming me to Hansboro High, and everyone ogled me as though I were some sort of outrageously-weird space alien. Then, the speech was over, and I was **slinking** back to my desk when the little twerp said in an extremely loud voice, "So, how's the weather up there, *Big Girl!*" The other students laughed, so I made myself laugh, too, as though I didn't care; but all the while, I was secretly thinking that I will most definitely figure out a way to make everyone laugh at *him* the very first chance I can get!

13. This journal entry is mostly about:
- A. how to win friends and influence people
 - B. a first day at a new school
 - C. how the weather is different for taller people
 - D. none of the above
14. Which detail tells you that Cassie is a new student at Hansboro High?
- A. Mr. Antonio called her a "new arrival."
 - B. She looks like a space alien.
 - C. She saw a guidance counselor on Friday.
 - D. none of the above
15. What happened after the bell rang?
- A. A boy shoved Cassie aside.
 - B. Mr. Antonio asked her to come to the front of the room.
 - C. Cassie was carried along with the crowd.
 - D. none of the above



16. How is Cassie's first day different from a regular day?

- A. She has no homework.
- B. She knows where her homeroom is located.
- C. She will be leaving early.
- D. none of the above

17. What caused Cassie to become angry with the boy in the hall?

- A. He's a lot shorter than Cassie.
- B. He tried to copy her homework.
- C. He told her to go to the front of the room.
- D. none of the above



18. What can you infer from his actions about the personality of the boy in the journal entry?

- A. He doesn't like attention.
- B. He is not shy.
- C. He should be in detention.
- D. none of the above

19. Cassie decided she would make everyone laugh at the short boy because:

- A. she didn't like the way he spoke to Mr. Antonio
- B. he embarrassed her in front of everyone
- C. he is running for class clown and needs the attention to get votes
- D. none of the above

20. The passage reads, "She was **deposited** at the entrance. . ."

What does **deposited** mean the way it is used in the passage?

- A. It refers to putting money in the bank.
- B. It refers to being shoved along.
- C. It refers to being left somewhere.
- D. none of the above

21. Why does the author **not** have Cassie look around the school on Friday?

- A. to make her confusion on Monday more believable
- B. to give her more to write about in her journal
- C. to make an icy-hand clutch her heart
- D. none of the above

22. Which is the best summary of this passage?
- A. A second day at school does not always go smoothly.
 - B. It isn't easy to be popular in high school.
 - C. One should always know where homeroom is located.
 - D. none of the above
23. What inference can you draw about Mr. Antonio?
- A. that he gives too much homework
 - B. that he is popular with his students
 - C. that he is a new teacher
 - D. none of the above
24. Which detail belongs in a summary of this passage?
- A. Most schools are overcrowded.
 - B. Some students carry too many books with them in the halls.
 - C. Cassie is not very happy.
 - D. none of the above
25. Why did Mr. Antonio ask Cassie to come to the front of the class?
- A. to introduce her to everyone
 - B. so he could help the class make fun of her
 - C. to give her a detention slip for being late to class
 - D. none of the above
26. What was the author's purpose for writing the first sentence?
- A. to show what a crowd looks like
 - B. to let the reader know that Cassie is afraid of crowds
 - C. to give the reader a picture of Cassie's surroundings
 - D. none of the above
27. The passage reads that Cassie was "**slinking** back to her desk. . . ." What does **slinking** mean the way it is used here?
- A. trying not to attract attention
 - B. running as fast as possible
 - C. crawling on your stomach on the floor
 - D. none of the above
28. From Cassie's reaction at being teased, you can tell that:
- A. she enjoys being the center of attention
 - B. she is having a gratifying day
 - C. she plans to run for a student government position
 - D. none of the above



Read the following selection. Then answer questions 29 through 40.

The Hindenburg Disaster

In May of 1937, the Hindenburg, a balloon that had engines to control its horizontal movement, known as a dirigible, departed Frankfurt, Germany, for the Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station in New Jersey. The Hindenburg, named after the president of Germany, was the largest aircraft ever built. On board were a total of 97 passengers and crew members. The ship was built by Luftschiffbau Zeppelin in 1935 and flew for the first time in March 1936, setting a record for an airship Atlantic double-crossing of 5 days, 19 hours, and 51 minutes in July. Zeppelin became so well-known for this type of dirigible that his name became synonymous with that type of airship.

The body of the Hindenburg was skinned in cotton, which had been painted with iron oxide and cellulose acetate butyrate impregnated with aluminum powder. The Hindenburg body was originally supposed to be filled with helium, however, at that time, the U.S. had placed a military **embargo** on helium. The Germans instead used hydrogen, which is highly flammable, as the lift gas to get the ship off the ground. The engineers knew hydrogen gas was risky, so they instilled a number of safety measures to keep the hydrogen from causing fires when it leaked, as it invariably would during flight. In addition, they specially treated the airship's coating in an attempt to prevent electric sparks from starting fires on the exterior of the airship.

With an all-aluminum structure, the Hindenburg was built from a new design and featured specifications of 804 feet in length and a diameter of 135 feet. Four 1,100 horsepower engines powered it, and it had a maximum speed of 83-mph. On European flights, the Hindenburg carried 72 passengers and 61 crew members. On trans-Atlantic flights, it carried 50 passengers and the 61 crew members. While modern airship passengers travel in gondolas installed below the main body of the ships, for aerodynamic reasons, the Hindenburg carried passengers inside the frame/body as opposed to inside the gondolas.

The Hindenburg was more or less a flying resort, offering sleeping berths and a grand lounge with a piano player as entertainment. The food and service were both first-class. Passengers buying a round-trip ticket for the flight paid \$810 for the experience. (Today, that same ticket would cost \$10,000.) The airship, known for her speed and an immaculate flying record, was nonetheless running 12 hours behind due to bad weather when it neared the New Jersey landing field.

The landing crew was waiting to catch the nose and tail ropes as the zeppelin approached the towers, to which it would be tethered when caught. The Hindenburg was correct on its approach, homing straight in on the towers. Bands were playing, crowds were gathered, and members of the media (movie film crews and radio and newspaper reporters) were gathered at the landing site. The crush of journalists was in response to a heavy publicity push about the first trans-Atlantic zeppelin flight of the year.

The ship was approximately 200 feet overhead when it burst into flames. No one on board survived. To this day, no one knows what caused the disaster, and questions and controversy surround the accident although, as with many historic events, there are many

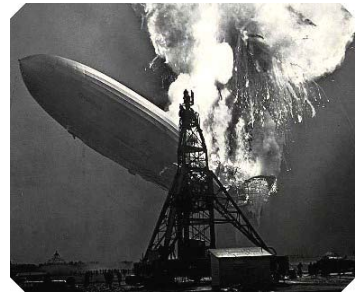
The Hindenburg Disaster

interpretations of the real cause. The crossing was the first of eighteen planned for 1937, but public faith in airships was completely undone by the spectacular film footage of the scene, and the Hindenburg disaster marked the end of the giant, passenger-carrying rigid airships.

29. What is this passage primarily about?
- A. It's about travel conditions on zeppelins.
 - B. It's about what caused the Hindenburg disaster.
 - C. It's about a zeppelin named Hindenburg.
 - D. none of the above
30. Which detail best shows the attitude of the engineers toward safety?
- A. They treated the airship's coating to prevent electric sparks.
 - B. They knew hydrogen gas was risky.
 - C. They skinned the Hindenburg in cotton.
 - D. none of the above
31. What happened right before the Hindenburg burst into flames?
- A. It was struck by lightning due to bad weather.
 - B. The ground crew accidentally pulled too soon on the nose and tail ropes.
 - C. The film crews got in the way of the landing.
 - D. none of the above
32. Why did the author compare the Hindenburg to a flying resort?
- A. There were so many people on board the zeppelin.
 - B. There was excellent service and food, as well as a lounge and entertainment.
 - C. The tickets cost so much money for the time period.
 - D. none of the above
33. What caused the Germans to use hydrogen instead of helium?
- A. There was a military embargo on helium.
 - B. German engineers recommended it.
 - C. The zeppelin II used hydrogen.
 - D. none of the above

The Hindenburg Disaster

34. What can you infer about the popularity of airship travel before the Hindenburg disaster?
- A. Airship travel was only popular in New Jersey.
 - B. Airship travel was only popular with members of the media.
 - C. Airship travel was quite popular among those who could afford it.
 - D. none of the above
35. You can tell from the passage that:
- A. the U.S. and Germany would soon be at war
 - B. airships could carry more people on trans-Atlantic flights than on local flights
 - C. airships used smaller crews on local flights
 - D. none of the above
36. From its use in the passage, what does **embargo** mean?
- A. a ban
 - B. a group of soldiers
 - C. an extra added cost
 - D. none of the above
37. The author wrote the first paragraph to:
- A. tell about the Lakehurst Naval Air Station
 - B. explain how important the Hindenburg's speed record was at the time
 - C. give the reader some background on the Hindenburg
 - D. none of the above
38. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. The Hindenburg taught everyone a lesson about airship travel.
 - B. The Hindenburg gave the Germans an opportunity to spy on the U.S.
 - C. The Hindenburg proved that all-aluminum structures were safe for airships.
 - D. none of the above
39. What happened right before the second of seventeen planned airship crossings in 1937?
- A. The Hindenburg's sister ship set an airship speed record.
 - B. The Hindenburg burned in Frankfurt, Germany.
 - C. The cost of round-trip airship tickets went up.
 - D. none of the above



The Hindenburg

The Hindenburg Disaster

40. The best summary of the third paragraph is:
- A. This is how an airship is built and powered.
 - B. This is how fast an 1,100 horsepower engine can push an airship.
 - C. This is where passengers travel on an airship.
 - D. none of the above

-
41. A dictionary can also be called:
- A. an index
 - B. a glossary
 - C. a thesaurus
 - D. none of the above



42. An encyclopedia does **not** give you:
- A. geographical facts
 - B. historical facts
 - C. up-to-the-minute information
 - D. none of the above
43. Where might you find a summary of airship disasters?
- A. in the "A" book of an encyclopedia
 - B. in an atlas
 - C. in a world history textbook
 - D. none of the above
44. What is another word for **footnote**?
- A. annotation
 - B. footer
 - C. definition
 - D. none of the above