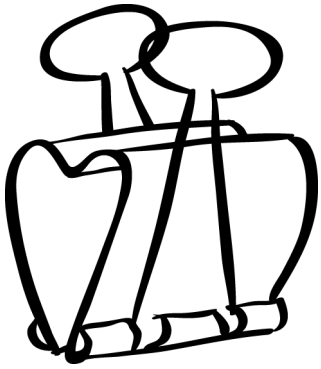
TOP SCORE WRITING

STUDENT PORTFOLIO

Name:



Expository Writing

Top Score Writing

(Source 1)

Sports Practice

1 As nightfall nears on a chilly autumn evening, the bright lights of the school football field illuminate the stands. Roaring cheers can be heard around the neighborhood of the families cheering on their children as they race towards the end zone hoping to score a touchdown. As the clock winds down, the team seizes victory as the points climb on the scoreboard. This moment is one that many families across the nation have in common. Organized youth sports are becoming extremely popular for youth and families. Soccer, baseball, football, hockey, and basketball are just a few sports that draw in youth athletes. However, some researchers in the medical field are questioning the effects of the **rigorous**[1] training that is being asked of these young athletes.

[1] rigorous – strictness, severity, or harshness, as in dealing with people

2 With approximately 45 million participants in organized youth sports across the United States, roughly 75% of American families have at least one school-aged child participating in organized sports. The growth of competitive youth sports is increasing the practice of year-round training, children starting sports at an earlier age, and children competing on an "elite" level. Organized youth sports are even drawing media coverage on the national and international levels. The rise in youth sports is leading to concerns for children physically and emotionally.

Physical Effects

3 Some youth sports require extensive practice sessions as the team's competitiveness intensifies. After school practices can last 2-3 hours, 3-4 times a week. This means that after the child completes a full day at school, they have to attend 2-3 hours of practice before finishing home learning activities, showering, eating dinner, and finding some relaxation time. The overemphasis on winning is one of the problems that lead to increased sports-related injuries. Children are being pushed harder by coaches, parents, and teammates to score more points. Pediatricians play a key role in monitoring the health of youth athletes to help reduce the risks associated with these organized sports. Overuse injuries, such as stress fractures, can be consequences of excessive sports practices. At least half of all injuries that youth athletes receive are from overuse, and 67% of injuries occur during practice. Although children tend to be over-energetic and injuries can't always be avoided, the pressure put on by coaches and parents is leading to more injuries. The adults that monitor youth sports should be able to identify the needs of a child and know when to enforce more safety precautions.

Emotional Effects

4 Sports can be very beneficial for young athletes. Organized youth sports promote exercise, healthy living, team building skills, and positive peer relationships. The challenge is when the need to win is overemphasized and children are pushed too hard. The increased level of competitiveness requires children to train longer and harder. Children are at risk of

feeling burnt out from the physical and emotional stress on their bodies. This affects their social relationships, their education, and can sometimes lead to problems in the family household. Parents sometimes set unrealistic expectations for their children which may have negative consequences. When parental pressure becomes too heavy, some youth athletes may experience headaches, stomach aches, trouble sleeping, muscle pains, and periods of sadness. The goal of organized youth sports should be to be active, have fun, and to provide a positive sports experience through learning and the practice of fundamental skills.

5 Organized youth sports provide children with opportunities for physical activity, developing friendships, and learning a variety of developmental skills. Sports and recreation should be a fundamental part of children's lives. With childhood obesity rates on the rise, these youth sports are vital to children's health and well-being. As long as the sports are properly being monitored by parents and coaches to ensure their physical and emotional safety, the positive benefits will continue to support a child's development.

"Sports Practice" written for educational purposes.

(Source 2)

Jacob's Practice

6 "Three more laps to go, then I'll get a water break," thought Jacob, as he trudged around the football field. He got to football practice about 40 minutes ago, thankful that his mom packed some extra snacks and Gatorade for him to gobble down in the car on the way from school. Today was particularly tough because he had a surprise geometry quiz on angles during his fourth-period math class. Hopefully, tonight he'll get some time to study and work on his upcoming science project. He was psyched about this Saturday because he wanted to go to his best friend's birthday party at the arcade, but he has practice all morning so he might not make it to the party.

7 "Let's go, guys! Three more laps and then we are on to cross drills," shouted Coach Nelson.

8 "Aaaahhhhhhhh!" moaned the team.

9 Jacob loves playing sports. He played baseball last spring and soccer over the summer. His parents keep him in sports as much as possible. His dad is a big sports fanatic and loves to help out at practice and cheer Jacob on at the games. This is Jacob's second season with the Buccaneers Junior Football team. Last season, he missed three games when he fell during practice and sprained his knee. Next Saturday, they have the middle school championship game, and Jacob will be on the starting line, so the coach is pushing him extra hard.

10 "Jacob! Jacob! Jacob! Stop daydreaming son; we've got a lot of work to do. Grab some water, and then we can work on high knee drills," exclaimed Jacob's dad.

11 "Yes, sir!" replied Jacob, secretly wishing he could take a 10-minute break.

12 Sports have brought Jacob and his dad a lot closer. His dad used to work a lot, but now he always makes time for Jacob's games. Two times a week he gets out of work early to help out at practice. Jacob loves to be able to talk to his dad about sports, but sometimes he wishes they could relax together, or play a game for fun instead of winning. On the weekends his parents set up a tent by the field and bring chairs and snacks to watch Jacob's games. His mom yells the loudest out of all the moms. Sometimes it can be a little embarrassing, but mostly Jacob loves it when his family cheers him on.

13 "Hey, Jacob. Wanna practice some drills with me?" asked Mekhai.

14 "Sure buddy. I bet I'll beat your time again," said Jacob.

15 "Yeah right! You wish," laughed Mekhai.

16 Jacob met Mekhai last year when he started with the Buccaneers, and they quickly became friends. They have a lot in common; they both love sports and video games. Mekhai likes to challenge Jacob to mini-games, and they have a lot of fun together. Their parents get along too and always sit together during the games.

17 Practice ended at 7:15 pm. Jacob and his dad headed home, and his dad offered to practice some throws with him in the backyard after dinner. All Jacob wanted to do after the two-and-a-half-hour practice is take a shower, eat dinner, and go to sleep. Then, he remembered Mrs. Sallow is giving a biology test tomorrow on human anatomy. Guess he will be hitting the books tonight.

"Jacob's Practice" written for educational purposes.

Name:_____

Writing Prompt

Write an expository essay explaining how organized sports affect children.

Your expository essay must be based on this prompt and topic, and it must incorporate ideas and information found in the sources provided.

Use your best writing to complete an essay that

- is focused on your central idea;
- combines evidence from multiple sources with your own elaboration to develop your ideas;
- is organized and includes transitions within and among ideas;
- provides citations for quoted material and source ideas; and
- demonstrates correct use of grammar and language appropriate to the task.

Write your multiparagraph essay to an academic audience in the space provided.

Name:_____

Write an expository essay explaining how organized sports affect children.

I _____

T1_____ a._____

b._____

T2_____ a._____

b._____

T3_____ a._____

b._____

C _____

Alligators at Risk

1 There are two species of known alligators in the world, the American alligator and the Chinese alligator. The American alligator can be found in the wetlands of the Southern United States. These reptiles have been hunted for many years and, at one point, were close to extinction. In order to protect this species, they were listed under the Endangered Species Act, making hunting alligators illegal. Due to the efforts of the Endangered Species Act, the species has made a huge recovery and was taken off the endangered species list in 1987. Since the American alligator population has repopulated so well, hunting and egg collecting is once again allowed.

2 On the other hand, the Chinese alligator is a class one endangered species. The Chinese alligator can be found in the subtropical regions of China in low-lying areas such as rivers, streams, and marshes. This species of alligator is classified as critically endangered because it has a decline in population greater than 80% in specific areas of population. The destruction of their habitats comes largely from the conversion of the lands they inhabit being used for agricultural purposes. The Chinese alligator is very similar to the American alligator in appearance, but they are much smaller.

What Are Reptiles?

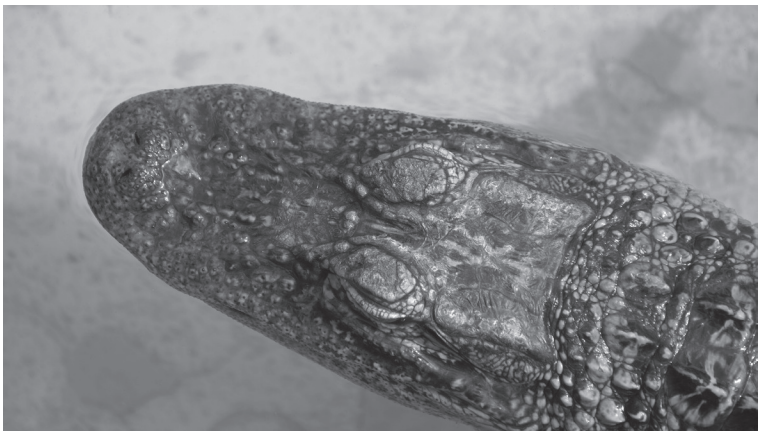
3 Snakes, turtles, and lizards are reptiles. These animals are cold-blooded; this means their body temperature depends on their environment and their skin is covered with hard scales that serve as protection for the animal. They have to keep warm by laying in the sun. Since they do not burn too much energy to keep warm, they do not have to eat as much food as mammals or other warm-blooded animals.

4 Most reptiles lay eggs. Alligators tend to create nests from nearby vegetation to keep their eggs safe. The decomposing vegetation creates the heat needed to keep the eggs incubated. The sex of the baby alligators is determined by the temperature of the nest. If the nest is cooler, it will produce a clutch of female hatchlings, and if the temperature is above 93 degrees Fahrenheit, the eggs will produce male hatchlings.

American Alligator	Chinese Alligator
An average adult American alligator's weight and length is 790 pounds and 13.1 feet The largest ever recorded, found in Louisiana, measured 19.2 feet Adult alligators are black or dark olive-brown with white undersides	Rarely exceeds 6.9 feet in length and usually weighs less than 100 pounds The body is fully armored, even under its belly

"Alligators at Risk" written for educational purposes.

Alligator Habitats



5 American alligators can be found in freshwater environments like rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps, and marshes. They also like to live in areas that are brackish, which means the water is slightly higher in salt content than fresh water, but not salty like sea water. Alligators tend to stay in marshy areas during the breeding season. The wetlands make nest building much easier for the alligators and keep the temperatures of the nests ideal for incubating their eggs.

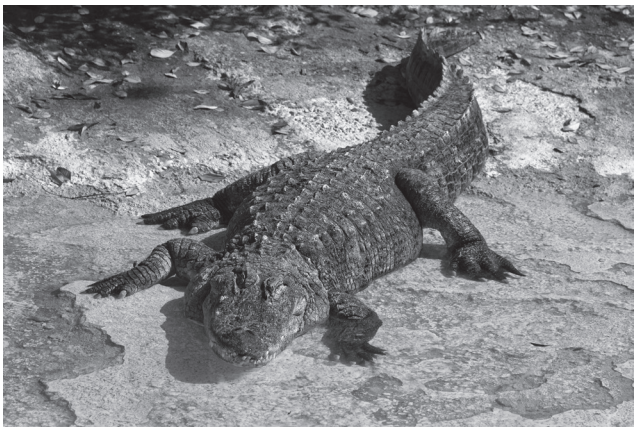
6 Adult American alligators create holes in their swamp habitats. They construct these alligator holes by using their feet, tail, and snout. These holes create areas that help the alligator stay cool during hot weather. Alligator holes also provide habitats for other animals during droughts.

7 Other animals found in these types of habitats are amphibians, shellfish, bears, and panthers. The types of animals found in these habitats depends on whether the swamp is a freshwater swamp or a saltwater swamp. These animals make this their home since they are able to live in low-oxygenated, slow-moving waters.

8 Many species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish live and do well in swamp ecosystems. These swamp areas are important because many fish and amphibians lay their eggs in the nearby dry areas. When the eggs hatch, the young crawl into the water.

Types of Reptiles Found in the Everglades

9 The Everglades National Park in Florida is a freshwater swamp and is home to hundreds of types of birds, many species of reptiles, the Florida black bear, and the Florida panther. Both the American crocodile and the American alligator coexist in the Everglades swamp. Florida weather makes this an ideal habitat for the alligator, as well as many other animals.



10 **Turtles:** The most common turtles found in a swamp-like habitat are the striped mud turtle commonly found along trails, the Peninsula Cooter often found in shark valley, and the Florida red-belly found in freshwater marshes.

11 **Snakes:** Most of the snakes found in the Everglades National Park are adapted to living in water. The striped crayfish snake is the best swimming snake in Florida, but is not easy to spot since they spend their time in marsh plants. The brown water snake is seen often in plain view and sometimes mistaken for the poisonous Florida cottonmouth.

12 **Amphibians:** Amphibians are animals that spend the early part of their life in water using gills to breathe. They grow into adults that may live in water but use lungs for breathing. These include frogs, toads, and salamanders. Most commonly seen in the Florida Everglades is the grass frog which is the tiniest frog in North America, the pig frog whose grunt-like call can be heard day or night, and the dwarf siren salamander.

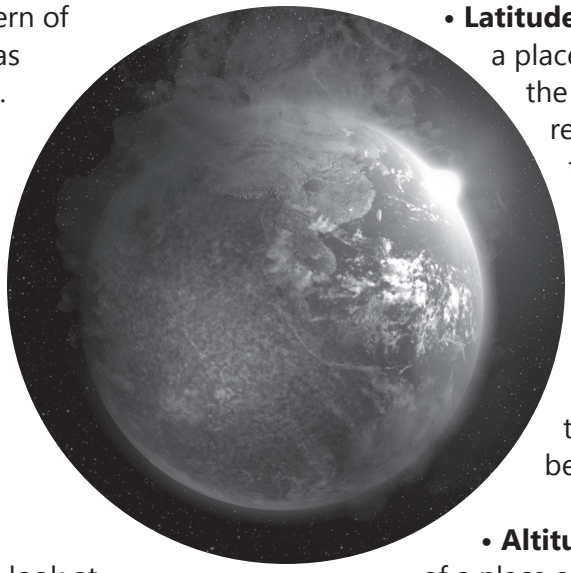
13 All of these reptiles have an important role to play in the habitat they live in.

"Alligator Habitats" written for educational purposes.

(Source 1)

Climates: An Introduction

1 Climate is the pattern of weather a specific place has over a long period of time. People who study climate are called climatologists. What do these scientists look for when they study a **region's**[1] climate? Some of the things they measure include average rainfall, sunshine, winds, and temperature for the region.



2 Climatologists also look at how each weather condition changes from month-to-month and year-to-year in a given region. For example, they look for patterns in the weather to determine if there are cold and hot seasons in the region, or if the temperatures stay pretty much the same all year long.

3 Keeping track of climates is a very important task, and there are five big factors that can make climates vary from place to place.

- **Latitude:** This is the distance of a place north or south from the **equator**[2]. The closer a region is to the equator, the hotter it is throughout the year. The farther away it is, the colder it is. In regions closer to the equator, the summers are longer and hotter. As you approach the poles, the colder the winters become.

- **Altitude:** This is the height of a place above sea level. Higher elevations are usually colder than lower elevations.

- **Distance from Oceans and Large Lakes:** Large bodies of water such as oceans and lakes rise and drop in temperature more slowly than land. Due to this, areas near large bodies of water have milder winters and cooler summers. Water also warms or cools the air on the surface and helps to keep temperatures comfortable.

[1] region – any large part of the Earth's surface

[2] equator – an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, halfway between the North and South Poles

- **Mountain Ranges:** Air cannot pass through mountains. Instead, it rises and cools as it travels up the side of a mountain. The cool air causes water in the air to become cold. Then, the water falls as rain. All of the rain stays on the same side of the mountain causing the other side of the mountain to be dry and even become a desert.

- **Wind:** Several major belts of wind blow around the earth. They blow from different directions. As they do, they distribute cool air, heat, and moisture to different parts of the world.

4 The world is divided into different climate zones based on similar weather patterns. The weather patterns in a climate zone affect the types of **vegetation**[3] and animals found there. For example, roses could never survive at the South Pole, which is covered in ice. It is too cold there, and penguins could never survive in a region with an **arid**[4] climate. These climate zones tend to have similar animals and vegetation.

[3] vegetation – plant life

[4] arid – having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation

"Climates: An Introduction" written for educational purposes.

(Source 2)

Climate Zones

5 The Earth's surface is made up of many different climates. Climatologists (scientists who study climates) have organized the climates by grouping similar ones. Each region is grouped by similar kinds of vegetation, temperature, and **precipitation**[5]. Here's a look at some of the major groups.

Tropical Climates

6 Near the equator is the tropical climate zone. Tropical climates get a lot of sunlight and are very warm. Some places often experience heavy rainfall, making this zone very wet and humid. This climate zone makes it perfect for rainforests. Hot and muggy conditions provide an ideal **habitat**[6] for several types of plants and animal species, such as insects like butterflies and beetles, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals.

[5] precipitation – moisture in the form of rain, snow, sleet, ice or hail

[6] habitat – the place where an animal or plant naturally grows

Dry or Desert Climates

7 Zones with dry climates receive very little rain. Usually, the average rainfall for an entire year is less than 10 inches. Sometimes it is so hot in a desert that when rain does fall, it can evaporate even before it reaches the ground. Hot deserts often receive a lot of sunlight because there are very few clouds or trees to filter the sun's rays; however, at night deserts can be extremely cold. Very little plant life survives in the desert. Cacti are one exception. The cactus plant has **evolved**[7] so that it stores water during periods of **drought**[8]. The stem of the cactus stores water and allows very little to leave the plant. Some famous deserts include the Sahara in northern Africa and the Mojave in the United States.

Moderate Climates

8 Areas with moderate or temperate climates have winters that are cool and dry and summers that are warm and wet. Neither season in this zone has very hot or very cold temperatures. There are many plants and animal species that do very well in these climates. Most of the United States falls into this climate zone.

Polar Climates

9 Have you ever heard of the polar ice caps? The ice caps are found at the North and South Pole and are always covered in ice or snow. They are the places with the coldest climates on Earth. These places get less of the sun's direct warmth because of the tilt of Earth's axis causing it to be dark for six months out of the year. Temperatures are extremely low during winter. Precipitation is rare and almost always in the form of snow.

[7] evolved – to gradually develop characteristics that will help a species survive in an environment

[8] drought – a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall; a shortage of water resulting from this

"Climate Zones" written for educational purposes.

Document Camera Name:_____

Directions: Plan for the following prompt.

Write an expository essay about alligators.

I _____

T1_____ a._____

b._____

T2_____ a._____

b._____

T3_____ a._____

b._____

C _____

Skill Check Name:_____

Directions: Plan for the following prompt.

Write to explain about different climates.

I _____

T1_____ a._____

b._____

T2_____ a._____

b._____

T3_____ a._____

b._____

C _____

Magnetism

1 Magnets come in many sizes and are very **diverse**[1]. The most commonly seen magnets are in the shapes of bars or disks. Because they stick to certain metals, they are used to fasten and latch things, like a cabinet door. Horseshoe magnets have a U shape. They are used to move iron and steel scraps.

2 Magnets are everywhere. They help to make life more **convenient**[2]. For example, you may have seen your teacher using magnets to help keep important papers upon his/her whiteboard. You may also have magnets on your refrigerator door at home keeping doctor appointments visible. You may also have seen them attached to the back of cars in the shapes of ribbons.

3 Many electrical motors also use magnets. They require the help of electromagnets to run. The force that runs the motor is created by a magnet sending an electrical current through a coil of wire. Motors with electromagnets help run household appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers. The same electromagnetic force is also used in the motors of cars, trains, and airplanes.

4 Magnets are so useful that they're even being used in the healthcare field. Huge magnets in a special machine can give doctors a **detailed**[3] view of what is inside your body. The doctors use these pictures to find and treat whatever is wrong without having to make an **incision**[4]. The use of the machine is also more cost effective for the patient.

5 The use of magnets only continues to grow as new inventions are made. In Japan, magnets are being used in some remarkable new ways. For example, Japan now has a train that runs on magnets. It just hovers over the tracks. The magnetic force created between the train and the tracks allows the train to ride smoother and faster.

[1] diverse – very different

[2] convenient – proceeding with little effort or difficulty

[3] detailed – having many details or facts, showing attention to detail

[4] incision – a surgical cut made in the skin or flesh

"Magnetism" written for educational purposes.

What Are Magnets?

6 Have you ever wondered how a magnet works? What makes metal objects attract to a magnet and why do magnets repel each other? The answer is magnetism.

7 The official definition of magnetism is "a physical phenomenon produced by the motion of electric charge, resulting in attractive and repulsive forces between objects." In other words, magnetism is a force that can pull together or push away objects. All magnets have a north pole and a south pole. If different poles of two magnets are placed close to each other they will attract, but same poles will repel.

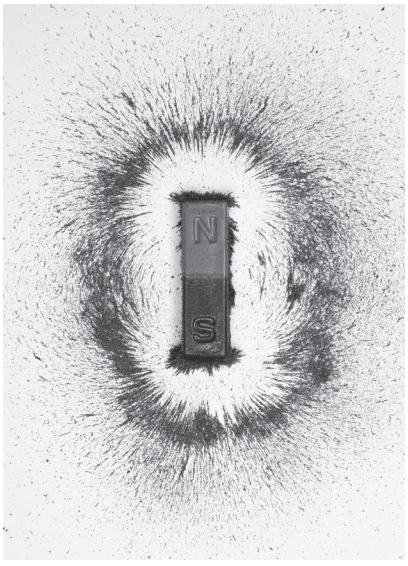
8 When it comes to magnets, opposites attract. Each magnet has a north pole and south pole, and only the opposite ends of magnets will attract other magnets. Placing the ends north to north or south to south will result in **repulsion**[5].

[5] repulsion – to move away from each other

Types of Magnets

9 **Permanent Magnets** are the most commonly seen magnets. These are the ones we find hanging onto our refrigerator doors. They are said to be permanent because once they are magnetized, they maintain their magnetism.

10 **Temporary Magnets** are those objects that act like a permanent magnet when they are near a magnetic field. During this time they are charged and will be attracted to another magnet. An example of a temporary magnet would be paper clips, nails, and other soft metal objects. These objects are considered to be magnetized for a short time making them a temporary magnet.



11 **Electromagnets** are a temporary magnet made by coiling wire around an iron core; when current flows in the coil the iron becomes a magnet. The main advantage of an electromagnet is that the magnetic field can be changed by controlling the amount of electric current flowing through it. However, unlike a permanent magnet that needs no power, an electromagnet requires a continuous supply of current to maintain the magnetic field. Examples of electromagnets are generators, blenders, washing machines, and other household appliances.

"What are Magnets?" written for educational purposes.

Model/Work Together Name:_____

"I" Paragraph

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Climates: An Introduction
Climate Zones

Write to explain about different climates.

I _____

T1 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T2 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T3 _____ a. _____

b. _____

C _____

Now write the "I" paragraph:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Skill Check Name:_____

"I" Paragraph

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Magnetism
What Are Magnets?

Write an expository essay about magnetism.

I _____

T1 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T2 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T3 _____ a. _____

b. _____

C _____

Now write the "I" paragraph:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Skill Check Name:_____

Directions: Using the prompt and planning below, write the topic sentences for the T1, T2, and T3 paragraphs of this essay.

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Climates: An Introduction

Climate Zones

Write to explain about different climates.

I	**climates**		
T1	factors	a. latitude	b. distance
T2	tropical	a. sun	b. habitats
T3	dry	a. little rain	b. cacti
C	**climates**		

T1

_____

_____

_____

T2

_____

_____

_____

T3

_____

_____

_____

Skill Check Name:_____

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Climates: An Introduction
Climate Zones

Write to explain about different climates.

I _____

T1_____ a. _____

b. _____

T2_____ a. _____

b. _____

T3_____ a. _____

b. _____

C _____

I

T1

T2

T3

C

Student Practice Name:_____

Directions: Rewrite this T2 paragraph to include citations using evidence-based terminology.

Second, alligators are animals classified as reptiles. Alligators fall into the category of reptiles because they are cold-blooded. Cold-blooded means their environment controls their body temperature and they have scales for protection. When their body temperature is too low they warm up by laying in the sun. Similarly, alligators are classified as reptiles because they lay eggs in nests. Baby alligators are either male or female based on the temperature of the nest that the eggs are in. If the nest is above 93 degrees, the eggs will be male, and if it is cooler than that, the eggs will end up being female.

Skill Check Name:_____

Directions: Rewrite this T3 paragraph to include citations using evidence-based terminology.

Third, alligators are adapted to live in various habitats. You can find alligators in fresh water habitats like rivers, as well as brackish habitats such as swamps. Brackish means the water is saltier than fresh water, but not as salty as seawater. Fresh water and brackish water habitats are the perfect place for alligators to live and lay eggs. Another habitat alligators live in are holes that they create in swamps. They dig these holes by using their body parts such as their feet and tail. Alligator holes are very useful because they help alligators keep cool in the hot weather and also camouflage them from their prey so that they can capture meals easily.

Skill Check Name:_____

Directions: Write the wrap-up sentence for this paragraph.

Third, alligators are adapted to live in various habitats. In paragraph one of Alligator Habitats, it says that you can find alligators in freshwater habitats like rivers as well as brackish habitats such as swamps. Brackish means the water is saltier than fresh water but not as salty as seawater. Freshwater and brackish water habitats are the perfect places for alligators to live and lay eggs. Another habitat alligators live in are holes that they create in swamps. According to the text Alligator Habitats, the author says they dig these holes by using body parts such as their feet and tail. Alligator holes are very useful because they help alligators keep cool in the hot weather and also camouflage them from their prey so that they can capture meals easily. It is important to know where alligators like to live so that we can make sure we protect those areas from destruction.

Homework Name:_____

Directions: Look over the three middle paragraphs. Highlight or underline the quotes in one color, the paraphrases in another color and the own thoughts and ideas in a third color. Then draw a circle around the EBT in every paragraph.

Advanced Essay about Alligators

Did you know that the largest ever recorded alligator measured 19.2 feet? Alligators are interesting because there are two different species, they are a type of reptile, and they live in various habitats. Alligators aren't as scary once you learn more about them.

First and foremost, there are two different species of alligators in the world. The most well-known type of alligator is the American alligator, and that is because there are many that live right in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana. According to the article Alligators at Risk, "The American alligator can be found in the wetlands of the Southern United States." It is hard to believe that these animals were once close to extinction because I have seen so many around where I live. It is very common to see alligators. In the first passage, I learned that the American alligator was listed under the Endangered Species Act and it was illegal to hunt them. As a result of the Act, the alligators have a high enough population to be taken off of the endangered species list in 1987. Another type of alligator species is the Chinese alligator. "The Chinese alligator is very similar to the American alligator in appearance. However, these reptiles are much smaller," says the author of the article Alligators at Risk. There are also far fewer Chinese alligators than American alligators because they are listed as critically endangered, based on what I read in the article Alligators at Risk. The Chinese alligator is not as familiar to me as the American alligator because it is only located in China and I have never seen one in real life. I can imagine they look the same, but are a little smaller than the American alligator. Alligators are fascinating animals, and it is important to know the similarities and differences between the two species.

Additionally, alligators are animals classified as reptiles. Alligators fall into the category of reptiles because they are cold-blooded unlike humans, birds, and bears. The author states in the passage Alligators at Risk, that cold-blooded "means their body temperature depends on their environment. They have to keep warm by laying in the sun." I have seen alligators spending most of the day sunbathing along the banks of the wetlands. I think the strong sun and warmer weather is why they prefer to live in the Southeast. Similarly, alligators are classified as reptiles because they lay eggs in nests. According to the passage Alligators at Risk, baby alligators are either male or female based on the temperature of the nest that the eggs are in. If the nest is above 93 degrees, the eggs will be male, and if it is cooler than that, the eggs will end up being female. After learning about the characteristics of reptiles, I can understand why alligators are classified this way.

Last but not least, alligators are adapted to live in various habitats. You can find alligators in freshwater habitats like rivers, lakes, and marshes, as well as brackish habitats such as swamps. Brackish means "the water is slightly higher in salt content than fresh water, but not salty like seawater," states the author of the second source titled Alligator Habitats. Of all of the places alligators prefer to live, none of them are purely salt water. It would be extremely rare to find an alligator at the beach. They are definitely more common in lakes and ponds. Another habitat alligators live in are holes that they create in swamp habitats. I read in the article Alligator Habitats that "they construct these alligator holes by using their feet, tail, and snout." I can imagine alligators burrowing themselves down in the cool, wet sand. Alligator holes are very useful because they help alligators keep cool in the hot weather and also camouflage them from their prey so that they can capture meals easily, states the text titled Alligator Habitats. These holes are a great survival technique. They allow the alligators to regulate their body temperature and hunt. It is important to know where alligators like to live so that we can make sure we protect those areas from destruction.

In conclusion, alligators are remarkable because there are two different species, they are a type of reptile, and they live in various habitats. I think everyone should learn more about alligators so they can understand this mysterious creature. Alligators are an important part of their ecosystem.

Skill Check Name:_____

"C" Paragraph

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Magnetism

What Are Magnets?

Write an expository essay about magnetism.

Example Planning:

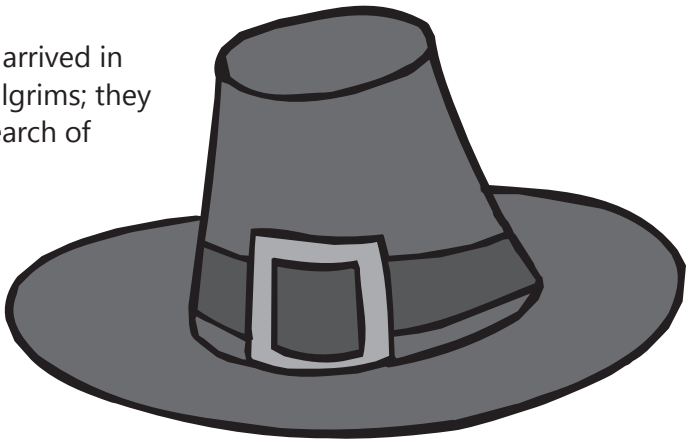
I magnetism
T1 force
T2 types
T3 everywhere
C magnetism

a. created
a. permanent
a. convenient

b. poles
b. temporary
b. useful

Now write the "C" paragraph:

Who Were the Pilgrims?



1 In 1620, a new group of immigrants arrived in New England. These **settlers**[1] were called Pilgrims; they traveled across the ocean from Europe in search of religious freedom.

2 The Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. Plymouth Rock is located near Cape Cod, Massachusetts. They settled in this area and began their colony. They wanted Plymouth Colony to be a place where they could practice their **beliefs**[2] freely.

3 During this time, King Henry VIII declared himself head of a new national church called the Church of England. The people of England were not happy with this, and they called for a return to a simpler faith and less structured forms of worship. Because these people wanted to purify the church, they came to be known as "Puritans." Another group went even farther; they demanded a formation of new separate churchgoers. The Pilgrims were part of this group.

4 The Pilgrims were known as Separatists because they wanted to separate themselves from England's **official**[3] church. However, at that time the English king did not allow groups to separate themselves from the Church of England.

5 In trying to find their freedom, the Pilgrims moved to the Netherlands. Then, a few years later, they decided to embark on a trip to America. In September of 1620, the Pilgrims set sail aboard the Mayflower from England to America. After 66 days and two deaths, these brave travelers arrived on the shores of America. They decided to make Plymouth their new home where they would be able to practice their religion freely.

[1] settlers – people who move into a new area and are among the first to live there

[2] beliefs – faith or religion

[3] official – supported by the governing body of the country. The only way to practice their beliefs freely would be to leave England altogether.

"Who Were the Pilgrims?" written for educational purposes.

Pilgrim Settlement

6 The Mayflower arrived in New England on November 11, 1620, after a 66-day voyage. Although the Pilgrims had originally intended to settle near the Hudson River in New York, dangerous **shoals**[4] and poor winds forced the ship to seek shelter at Cape Cod. It was here, in Cape Cod Bay, that most of the adult men on the ship signed the document known as the Mayflower Compact. It laid the foundation for the community's government.

7 A party of the ablest men began exploring the area to find a suitable place to settle. After several weeks, the exploring party arrived at what appeared to be an abandoned community. The rich water supply, good harbor, cleared fields, and location on a hill made the area an enticing place for settlement.

8 The Pilgrims built houses that were simple and practical. They worked very hard to build houses for everyone in their colony, despite the harsh weather conditions and brutal cold. During the time the houses were being built, everyone lived aboard the Mayflower, the ship that had brought them to America.

9 The first building the Pilgrims built was the common house. This structure was 20 feet long and was first used for storage and **shelter**[5]. Eventually, it was used as a hospital, church, and meeting place for the community.

[4] shoals – shallow areas of the sea, river, or other bodies of water

[5] shelter – place giving protection from bad weather

10 After the common house was built, the workers had a place to rest and keep warm from the cold. By April, several houses had been completed. The Pilgrims were finally able to leave the Mayflower and start living in their new homes.

11 The homes were small and had little to no furniture. The beds were made from bags filled with leaves, pine needles, or grass. Tables were made out of wooden **planks**[6]. People sat on benches, stools, or even the floor.

12 During the spring, the Pilgrims cleared out fields and began to plant crops. Other members of the colony became hunters and fishermen. By the end of the season, the Pilgrims had enough food to harvest for a "harvest home" celebration. It is said that during this time the Pilgrims and the Native Americans celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

[6] plank – a long, thin, flat piece of timber

"Pilgrim Settlement" written for educational purposes.

WRITING: Post-Test

Today the students will be taking a post-test on expository writing.

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Who Were the Pilgrims?
Pilgrim Settlement

Write an expository essay about the history of the Pilgrims.

1. Explain to students that on the state writing test they will be given a certain amount of time to complete their essay.
2. They should spend about 30 minutes reading the articles and 10-15 minutes for planning.
3. The remaining time should be used for writing the essay.
4. Hand out the articles, planning sheet, and testing paper.
5. Allow them to start reading and planning.
6. After approximately 45 minutes, tell them planning time is over and they should start writing.
7. Collect and grade using the Grades 4-6 B.E.S.T. Writing Expository Rubric.
8. Record scores on the Expository Skill Tracker found in the Expository Assessment Resources Section.

Name:_____

Writing Prompt

Write an expository essay about the history of the Pilgrims.

Your expository essay must be based on this prompt and topic, and it must incorporate ideas and information found in the sources provided.

Use your best writing to complete an essay that

- is focused on your central idea;
- combines evidence from multiple sources with your own elaboration to develop your ideas;
- is organized and includes transitions within and among ideas;
- provides citations for quoted material and source ideas; and
- demonstrates correct use of grammar and language appropriate to the task.

Write your multiparagraph essay to an academic audience in the space provided.

I _____

T1_____ a._____

b._____

T2_____ a._____

b._____

T3_____ a._____

b._____

C _____

Expository Checklist Name:_____

Checking Your Paper

_____ 5 paragraphs
_____ Indent 5 times

I
_____ 3-4 sentences
_____ Hook
_____ Central idea/3 topics
_____ Closing statement

T1
_____ Transition word/phrase
_____ "T" sentence
_____ 3-4 sentences about A
_____ 3-4 sentences about B
_____ Transitions within paragraph
_____ "W" sentence
_____ 8-10 sentences
_____ 1-2 citations

Quote _____
Paraphrase _____
Own thought/idea _____

T2
_____ Transition word/phrase
_____ "T" sentence
_____ 3-4 sentences about A
_____ 3-4 sentences about B
_____ Transitions within paragraph
_____ "W" sentence
_____ 8-10 sentences
_____ 1-2 citations

Quote _____
Paraphrase _____
Own thought/idea _____

T3
_____ Transition word/phrase
_____ "T" sentence
_____ 3-4 sentences about A
_____ 3-4 sentences about B
_____ Transitions within paragraph
_____ "W" sentence
_____ 8-10 sentences
_____ 1-2 citations

Quote _____
Paraphrase _____
Own thought/idea _____

C
_____ Overview (summary) of the topic
_____ Restate 3 topics
_____ Thought or feeling about topic