

# New York State English As A Second Language Achievement Test

# **NYSESLAT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grades  
7–8

**SPEAKING**  
**LISTENING**  
**READING**  
**WRITING**

Test Booklet

**TEST SAMPLER**

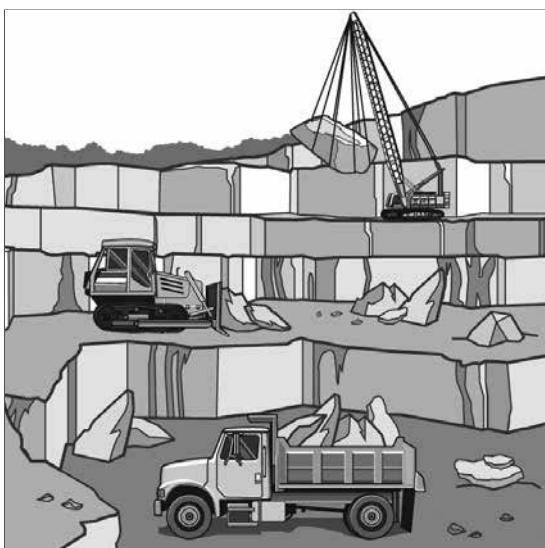


# Directions

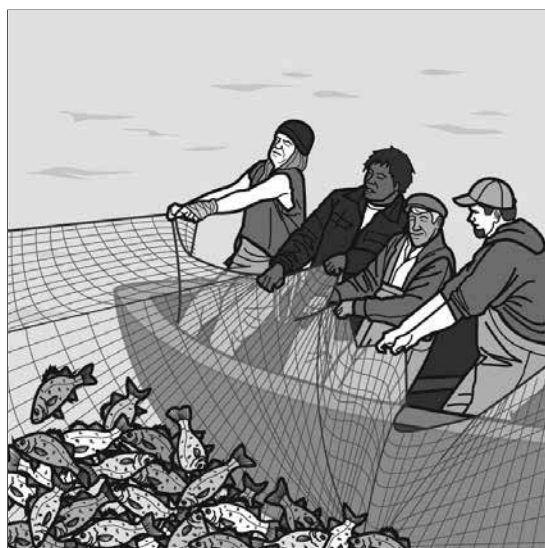
I am going to ask you some questions. Listen and then answer. Be sure to answer in English using your own words.

Different countries have different natural resources. Natural resources include food and building materials that come from that country's land and water. People use the resources that are available to them.

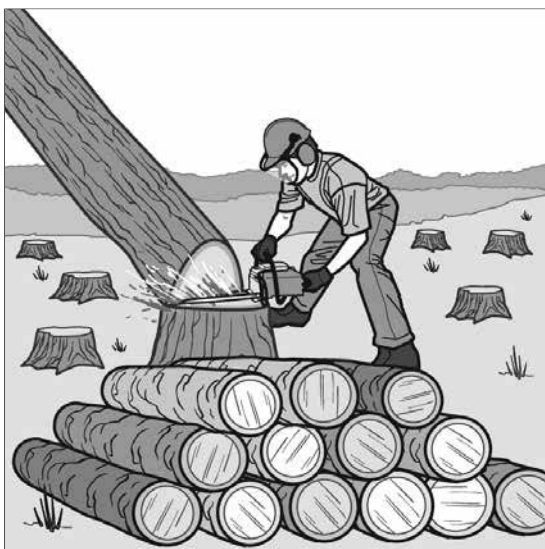
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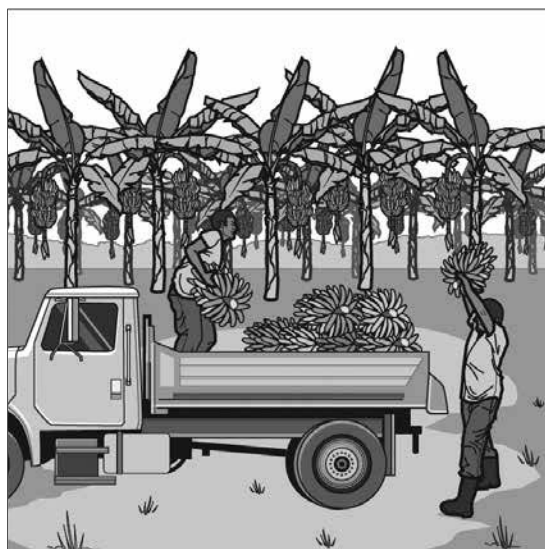
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1

Tell me what is happening in the pictures.

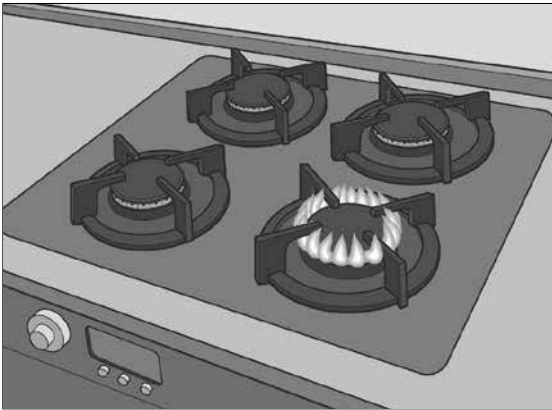
**Go On**



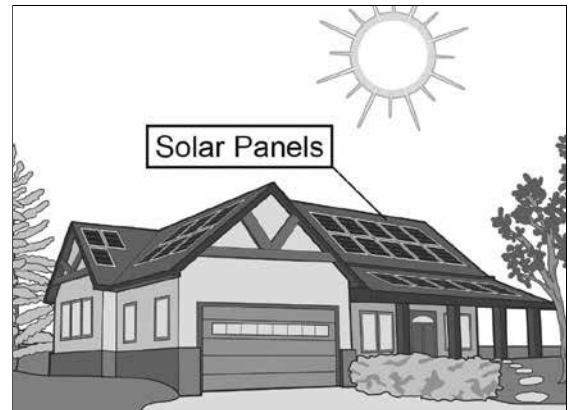
## **SPEAKING**

Every country needs sources of energy. Energy is used to power our homes, factories, and cars. In our homes, gas can be used for heating and for cooking. Solar panels or wind turbines can make electricity.

1.



2.



3.

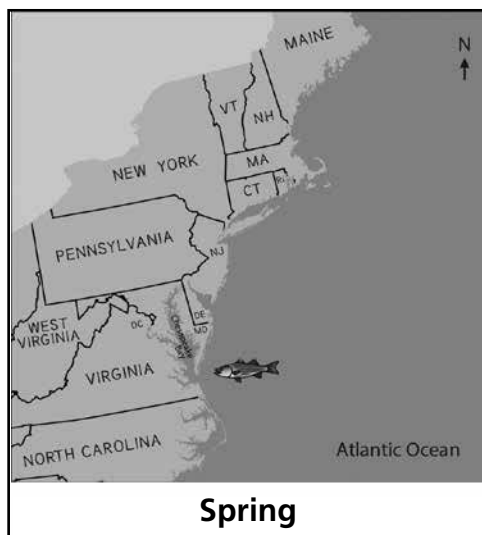


**2**

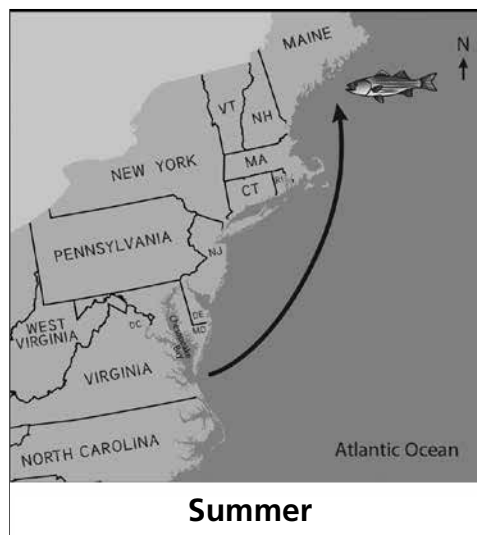
Tell me about the ways energy can be made.

The striped bass is a fish that takes a long journey every year. These fish like to be in water that is not too hot and not too cold, so they swim to a different location every season. Some striped bass are born near the Chesapeake Bay. In summer, they travel all the way to Maine to avoid the summer heat. In the fall and winter, they travel south and return to the ocean near their birthplace once temperatures cool down.

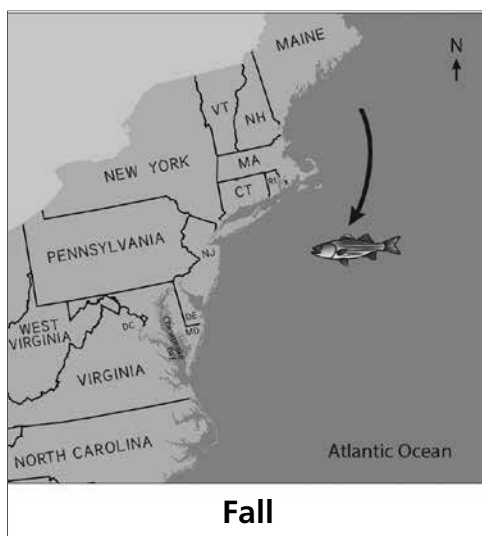
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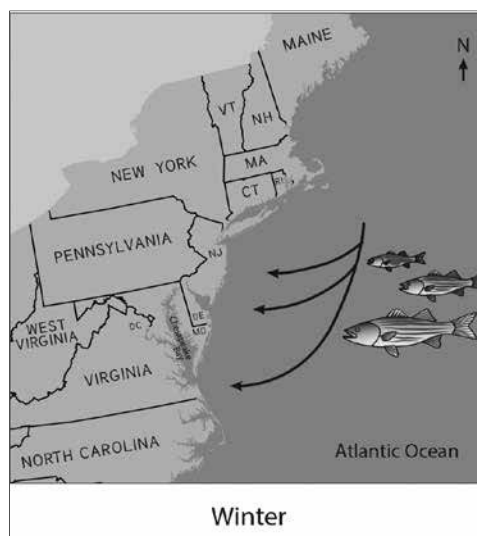
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**3**

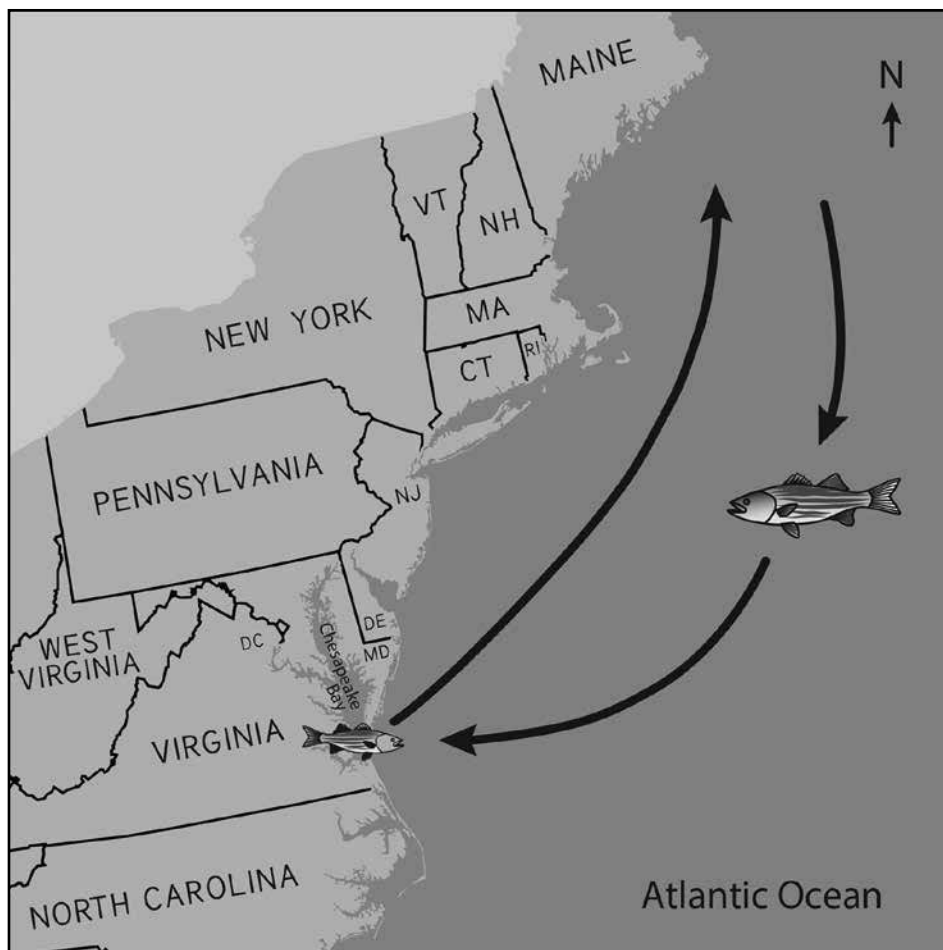
Tell me about the fishes' year-long journey.

**Go On**



## **SPEAKING**

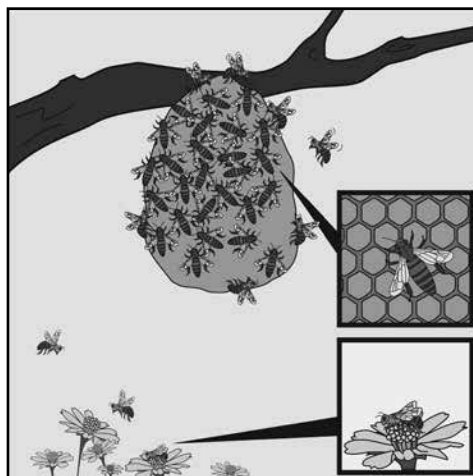
Striped bass travel all the time. Each season, these fish migrate to different locations along the Atlantic coast of the United States, looking for water that is at a certain temperature. Striped bass also travel back and forth between fresh water and salt water. They are born in freshwater rivers but spend their adult lives in the saltwater ocean where they have more space. When they are ready to lay their eggs, the striped bass travel back to fresh water again.



- 4** Tell me why striped bass travel so much during their lifetime.

## Directions

Now let's talk about honeybees.



Honeybees make honey by collecting nectar from flowers. They have special “honey stomachs” that turn the nectar into sugar and remove some of the water from it. They carry the nectar back to the hive. Then all the bees flap their wings to remove even more water out of the nectar. When enough water is evaporated, only honey is left.

Honeybees build their hives in hollow spaces. Sometimes, humans can get bees to live in boxes. This is called beekeeping. Beekeepers help the bees stay alive by providing them with places to live. In addition, the beekeepers can collect honey that the bees make. By beekeeping, humans can help ensure that honey is produced and that there are enough bees to pollinate nearby crops and plants.

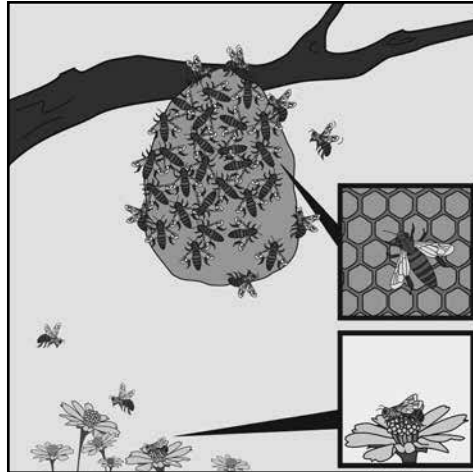
**5** Tell me how honeybees make honey.

Go On



## **SPEAKING**

**You just learned about honeybees.**



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**6** Do you think bees are important for humans and the environment?





**LISTENING**  
**READING**  
**WRITING**

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## *Directions*

Listen to the passage. Then answer Questions 1 through 6. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet.

### Tree Farms and the Environment



Go On



## LISTENING

**1** Which phrase shows what can be made from lumber?

- A** Areas of land
- B** Houses, paper, and firewood
- C** 10 acres or more
- D** The health of trees

**2** Which sentence indicates the main idea of the passage?

- A** Often, these farms are privately owned and focus on preserving woodland.
- B** Many tree farmers in the United States belong to the American Tree Farm System.
- C** Instead of getting paid to maintain their land, they often spend their own money on farm expenses.
- D** Tree farmers and the trees they grow are beneficial to humans and the environment.

**3** Which word does ones refer to?

- A** Farms
- B** Forest
- C** Trees
- D** Place

**4** Which phrase helps explain the meaning of expenses?

- A** Cultivates 10 acres
- B** Maintain their land
- C** Spend their own money
- D** Sell the lumber

**5** Which word or phrase tells what provides shelter to wildlife?

- A** Trees
- B** Soil
- C** Tree farmers
- D** The environment

**6** Which word or phrase describes tree farms?

- A** Areas of land
- B** Farmers
- C** Houses
- D** Paper and firewood



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# Directions

Read the passage. Then answer Questions 7 through 12. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet.

## The Contest



Young coal miners in the early 1900s



Fiddle

Raymond played the song, then lowered his fiddle. Clapping, his mama said, “You’re going to win that contest.”

Raymond grinned and replied, “I want to make everyone in Logan County proud of me.”

A month earlier he had won the county fiddling contest. Before that day, he played his winning song hundreds of times. The 1902 State Fiddling Contest was in three months, and he thought he would practice the song 100 more times before then. After all, his intention was to win that contest, too.

He smiled and thought about the rest of his plan: to win the grand prize—lessons from well-known fiddler Luke Lucas—and to eventually become as famous as Luke.

From the porch, Raymond could see his father and his brother Tom, who appeared exhausted as they trudged up the road. Their faces were black with dust from the coal mine. They waved and his father shouted, “Great fiddling!”

Raymond’s mother called to Tom, “A letter arrived for you.”

Go On



## READING

Tom dashed inside. He reappeared shortly and exclaimed, “Mr. Stickler wants me to start working for him in Huntington—in two weeks! He’ll teach me to be a mechanic, so now I won’t have to work in a coal mine!”

Raymond smiled at Tom’s joy, but when he noticed the worried look on his father’s face, he asked hesitantly, “What’s wrong, Pa?”

“Raymond, your brother’s work is dangerous and he needs to leave the mine, but our family can’t survive on my earnings alone,” his father explained. “I will ensure you’re given a job in the mine that isn’t so dangerous, like removing pieces of rock from the coal.”

“If I work in the mine for hours a day, I can’t practice my fiddling,” Raymond said softly.

His father mumbled, “I’m sorry, son.” Raymond, feeling sad, glanced at Tom.

“Don’t despair,” Tom reassured him. “After I get trained, I’ll send money home, and you can quit working. Keep practicing so you can win the state contest in 1903.”

Raymond smiled weakly at his brother, put the fiddle in its case, and latched the lid. “Next year,” he whispered to himself.

### 7 Read this paragraph again.

“From the porch, Raymond could see his father and his brother Tom, who appeared exhausted as they trudged up the road. Their faces were black with dust from the coal mine. They waved and his father shouted, ‘Great fiddling!’”

Which pair of words helps explain the meaning of They?

- A Porch, road
- B Dust, coal
- C Father, brother
- D Waved, shouted



**8** Read these sentences again.

“The 1902 State Fiddling Contest was in three months, and he thought he would practice the song 100 more times before then. After all, his intention was to win that contest, too.

He smiled and thought about the rest of his plan: to win the grand prize—lessons from well-known fiddler Luke Lucas—and to eventually become as famous as Luke.”

Which phrase helps explain the meaning of intention?

- A In three months
- B His plan
- C Well-known fiddler
- D The grand prize

**9** Read this paragraph again.

“A month earlier he had won the county fiddling contest. Before that day, he played his winning song hundreds of times. The 1902 State Fiddling Contest was in three months, and he thought he would practice the song 100 more times before then. After all, his intention was to win that contest, too.”

Which phrase shows when the 1902 State Fiddling Contest will happen?

- A A month earlier
- B Hundreds of times
- C In three months
- D 100 more times

Go On



- 10** Read these sentences again.

“Raymond’s mother called to Tom, ‘A letter arrived for you.’

Tom dashed inside. He reappeared shortly and exclaimed, ‘Mr. Stickler wants me to start working for him in Huntington—in two weeks!’”

Which word shows that Tom is excited by what he read in the letter?

- A** Arrived
- B** Exclaimed
- C** Called
- D** Reappeared

- 11** Which pair of phrases and sentences from the passage helps show that Raymond’s emotions toward his brother have changed?

- A** “Raymond smiled at Tom’s joy . . . .”  
“Raymond, feeling sad, glanced at Tom.”
- B** “Raymond’s mother called to Tom . . . .”  
“‘Don’t despair,’ Tom reassured him.”
- C** “. . . could see his father and his brother Tom, who appeared exhausted . . . .”  
“Mr. Stickler wants me to start working for him in Huntington—in two weeks!”
- D** “. . . ‘I can’t practice my fiddling,’ Raymond said . . . .”  
“‘Next year,’ he whispered to himself.”

**12** Read these phrases again.

“ . . . he would practice the song 100 more times before then.”

“ . . . become as famous as Luke.”

“Keep practicing so you can win the state contest . . . .”

**Which idea do these phrases support?**

- A** Raymond will stop playing the fiddle to work.
- B** Raymond wants to give the fiddle to his brother.
- C** Raymond is dedicated to mastering the fiddle.
- D** Raymond can still take lessons from Luke Lucas.



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## *Directions*

Read this passage. Then you will be asked to write one paragraph based on the passage.

### **The Contest**



**Young coal miners in the early 1900s**



**Fiddle**

Raymond played the song, then lowered his fiddle. Clapping, his mama said, “You’re going to win that contest.”

Raymond grinned and replied, “I want to make everyone in Logan County proud of me.”

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He smiled and thought about the rest of his plan: to win the grand prize—lessons from well-known fiddler Luke Lucas—and to eventually become as famous as Luke.

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**Go On**



## WRITING

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“Don’t despair,” Tom reassured him. “After I get trained, I’ll send money home, and you can quit working. Keep practicing so you can win the state contest in 1903.”

Raymond smiled weakly at his brother, put the fiddle in its case, and latched the lid. “Next year,” he whispered to himself.

### 13 Now read the directions below.

“The Contest” is about a boy named Raymond who likes to play the fiddle. How was Raymond’s life in 1902 different from your life today? Write one paragraph describing how Raymond’s life is different from your life. Give reasons for your answer. Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.

Checklist ☒

- ☐ Write about the topic.
- ☐ Plan your writing from beginning to end.
- ☐ Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage.
- ☐ Support your answer with details.
- ☐ Use complete sentences.
- ☐ Check your writing for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

**On the lines below, describe how Raymond's life is different from your life today. Remember to use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, gray octagonal stop sign with the word "STOP" written in bold, black capital letters.



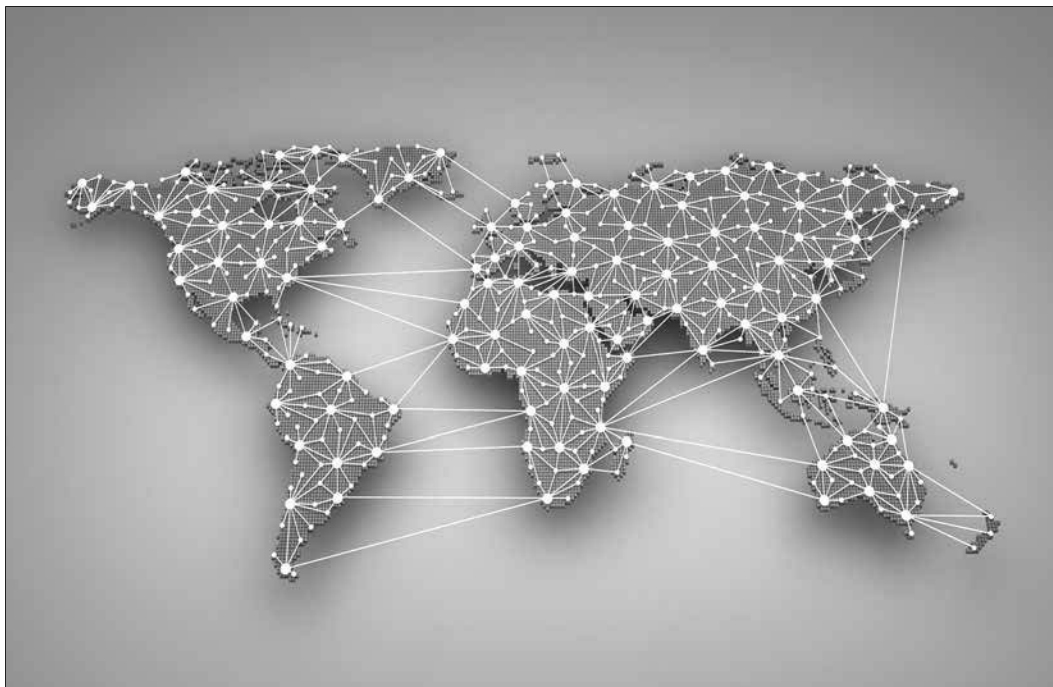
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## Directions

Read this passage. Then you will be asked to write at least two paragraphs based on the passage.

### Smaller World, Higher Food Prices



A century ago in the United States, a gallon of milk cost just 30 cents. Today it costs an average of \$3.50. A dozen eggs were just 37 cents, and now they cost about \$1.90. The prices of milk and eggs are two examples of how all food prices have risen over the last 100 years. Changes in the value of money were a main reason for food price increases. The cost of many items like clothing and houses also rose.

Food costs continue to rise. In the United States, they increased by about 5% in 2011 alone. Today, globalization is an important reason food costs keep increasing. Globalization means countries all over the world have become closely connected to one another through communication and the exchange of products. People, money, goods, and services are constantly moving between countries. As a result, any change in one country can quickly affect what happens in another because countries are no longer isolated from one another.

**Go On** ➡

Globalization provides American consumers with a variety of items they can purchase, such as fish raised in Asia, cheese made in Europe, and fruit grown in South America. They can purchase these foods during a single visit to their local grocery store and not even think about where the food originated. The United States also exports many foods, including grains and milk, to other countries. People living on the other side of Earth now eat bread that was made from wheat grown in the United States.

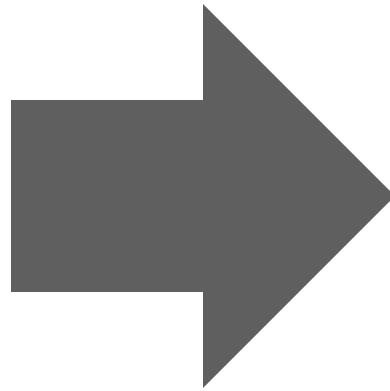
As food is shipped all over the globe, changes in one country affect prices in other countries. Another reason food costs are rising today is the growing population of the world. India and China have the fastest growing populations. The increase in the number of people in these countries is causing a higher need for food. When need increases, prices usually rise as well. Prices also rise when supply (the amount of food available) becomes lower. As more people consume more food, the supply decreases unless producers can grow more. The number of people in the world is higher than ever, and it keeps growing. This is another reason food prices are increasing.

Issues that affect the price of one type of food also affect the prices of other foods. For example, when grain costs rise because of increased demand, the cost of meat also rises. This happens because the farmers who raise the animals have to pay more for the grain to feed them. For example, in 2007, there was a shortage of water, or drought, in Australia. This drought resulted in higher grain prices, and it also caused the price of meat to become more expensive all over the world.

The United States' connection to other countries can affect food prices in other ways. In 2012, the United States imported 40% of its oil supplies from other countries. When the price of oil rose overseas, it also caused the cost of food to rise. This happened because U.S. food producers had to pay more for the fuel they used to operate farming equipment.

As countries become even more connected to one another, globalization increases. This is good for many consumers. Average Americans can choose from a variety of food that was unimaginable in the past. They can buy fresh fruits and vegetables even when snow covers the ground. Although globalization can cause food prices to increase, consumers in the United States still benefit from globalization.

***Go On***



## WRITING

**14** Now read the directions below.

The passage “Smaller World, Higher Food Prices” describes globalization and its effects on people everywhere. Think about some of the positive and negative effects of globalization. Write at least two paragraphs in your own words to explain the positive and negative effects of globalization. Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.

You may plan your writing for Question 14 here, if you wish. Use the space below to organize your ideas about what to write. Your writing on this planning page will NOT count toward your final score.

Write your final answer on Pages 27 and 28.

Planning Page

Checklist ☒

- ☐ Write about the topic.
- ☐ Plan your writing from beginning to end.
- ☐ Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage.
- ☐ Support your answer with details.
- ☐ Use complete sentences.
- ☐ Check your writing for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

**On the lines below, explain the positive and negative effects of globalization. Remember to use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.**

**Go On**



## WRITING

### Writing, continued

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