

Extended Constructed Response

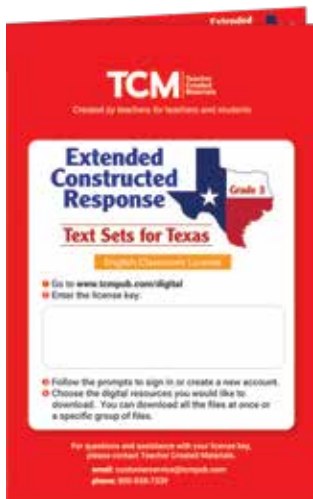


Text Sets for Texas

Grade 3

Table of Contents

Digital Download Bifold (1 page)
Sample Extended Constructed Response Texts (14 pages)



Extended Constructed Response
Text Sets for Texas

Table of Contents

- An American Hero (informational) 2
- Bats on the Brink (informational) 4
- The Scoop on Sugar (informational) 6
- Friendly Rival (informational) 8
- Rethinking Homework (argumentative) 10
- Should Everyone Get a Prize? (argumentative) 12
- Help for the Hungry (informational) 14
- Explore a Land Before Time (informational) 16
- The Move (informational) 18
- Midnight Rendezvous (informational with paired texts) 20
- When Guinea Pigs Multiply (informational with paired texts) 21

Grade 3 Reading Language Arts

Name: _____ Date: _____

An American Hero

Directions: Read the text and write a response.

An American Hero

In 1962, John Glenn became the first American to fly a spacecraft around the Earth. He set the course for space exploration.

In 1962, John Glenn lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. His mission was to fly a spacecraft around the Earth. He had done it before. Glenn orbited Earth twice. He landed in the Atlantic Ocean. He was an American hero.

The U.S. was racing the former Soviet Union to space. The Soviets won. But Glenn helped quickly on the new frontier. He was one of the crucial first steps toward landing astronauts on the moon. Michael Cabbage told TFK. Cabbage works for NASA.

Look Up To

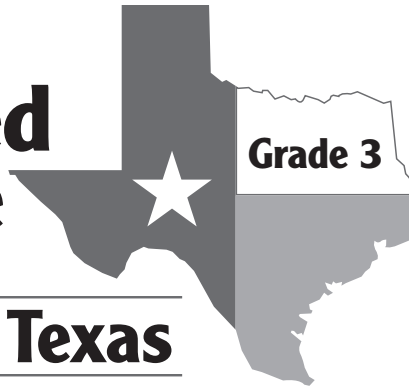
John Glenn served his country for 40 years. He was a U.S. senator for 20 years. In 1998, he made history. He became the oldest person to travel into space. Glenn was 77 years old.

Glenn was born in New Concord, Ohio. He grew up in the same town. "John Glenn is an American hero," says Taelor, a third grader. "He makes me want to do what he did."

—By Elizabeth Winchester

Grade 3 Reading Language Arts

Extended Constructed Response



Text Sets for Texas

Table of Contents

An American Hero (informational)	2
Bats on the Brink (informational)	4
The Scoop on Sugar (informational)	6
Friendly Rival (informational)	8
Rethinking Homework (argumentative)	10
Should Everyone Get a Prize? (argumentative)	12
Help for the Hungry (informational)	14
Explore a Land Before Time (informational)	16
The Move (informational)	18
Midnight Rendezvous (informational with paired texts)	20
When Guinea Pigs Multiply (informational with paired texts)	21

Directions: Read the text and write a response.

An American Hero

- 1 In 1962, John Glenn became the first American to fly a spacecraft around the Earth. He set the course for space exploration.
- 2 On February 20, 1962, John Glenn lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. His mission was to fly a spacecraft around the Earth. No American had done it before. Glenn orbited Earth three times. Then he landed in the Atlantic Ocean. He was an instant hero.
- 3 At the time, the U.S. was racing the former Soviet Union to send humans into space. The Soviets won. But Glenn helped the U.S. catch up quickly on the new frontier.
- 4 “It was one of the crucial first steps toward landing astronauts on the moon,” Michael Cabbage told TFK. Cabbage works for NASA.

Someone to Look Up To

- 5 Glenn continued to serve his country for many years. He was a U.S. senator from Ohio for 24 years. In 1998, he made history again. He became the oldest person ever to travel into space. Glenn died in 2016 at the age of 95.
- 6 Glenn once lived in New Concord, Ohio. “It’s cool to grow up in the same town as an American hero,” says Taelor, a third grader there. “It makes me want to do great things.”



—By Elizabeth Winchester

Directions: Read the text and write a response.

Bats on the Brink

1 When Halloween rolls around, we see lots of images of bats and all things spooky. But in fact, the number of creatures that fly by night is dwindling.



2 A mysterious disease is killing bats. It has killed more than a million bats in parts of Canada and the eastern and southern United States. Now, it is spreading west. The disease is called white-nose syndrome. It first appeared in 2006, in upstate New York. Scientists are looking for ways to stop the spread of the disease. Or at least they want to slow it down.

Saving the Species

3 Some bats hibernate. During the winter, they stay in a state that's like a deep sleep. Only hibernating bats seem to get white-nose syndrome. Scientists believe the disease is caused by a fungus. The fungus grows on a bat's nose, wings, and ears. It damages wing tissues. It may also bother the bats. That causes them to end their hibernation early. When they do, they burn up fat stored in their bodies. Bats need it to survive the winter. Unfortunately, there are not enough insects to eat in winter. With nothing to eat, many of the bats starve and die.

4 Researchers are testing drugs to fight the fungus. But conservationists told TFK that more money is needed. The money would be used to study the disease and find a cure. "It's important to save bats," says scientist Mollie Matteson. "They are fascinating animals. We can learn a lot from them."

5 Bats are also helpful. They eat mosquitoes and other insects that carry disease and harm crops. "Bats are our friends," says bat expert Tom Kunz. "They help people and the environment they live in," he says.

—By Elizabeth Winchester

Directions: Read the text and write a response.

The Scoop on Sugar

- 1 Three scientists have called on the government to help people eat less sugar. These scientists want to ban the sale of sugary drinks to kids. They want to keep sugary products out of schools. They also want to charge taxes for heavily sweetened foods. “We need to unsweeten our lives,” Dr. Robert Lustig, one of the scientists, told TFK.

Expand Your Choices

- 2 We need food to live. It helps us grow. It should help keep us healthy. Now, we’re learning our food may be doing the opposite.
- 3 Perhaps someday, the changes scientists recommend will happen. In the meantime, what can kids do now to cut down on extra sugar? Changing our eating habits isn’t easy. We like the foods we like. We don’t want to stop eating them. The good news is, you don’t have to give up your favorite cereal or soda completely. The key is to find balance.
- 4 Try new things! It can be fun! Replace some of those sugary foods with others that don’t have added sugar. Expand your choices.
- 5 Look at the ingredients list on food packages. Sometimes, packages use different names for sugar. Ingredients that end in *-ose* are sugars. Sucrose and fructose are two examples. The word syrup also means it’s a sugar.

Food for Thought

- 6 Do you really need your dinner roll to be sweet? Probably not. Dr. Katz says you should only eat foods with added sugar if you want them to be sweet. “Then, at dessert time, it takes a lot less sweetness to satisfy the taste buds,” he says. Dessert will taste like a sweet treat!
- 7 Dr. Lustig says to stay away from processed foods whenever possible. “Eat real food,” he says. “Food that came out of the ground or animals that ate food that came out of the ground.” Now, that’s food for thought.

–By Suzanne Zimbler

Directions: Read the text and write a response.

Friendly Rival

1 Alisha and Cindy were window-shopping at the mall. As the two friends strolled, Alisha showed Cindy a bracelet she had just bought.

2 “Yeah, that’s nice,” said Cindy, barely looking at it. The two girls passed a fancy store. Cindy dragged Alisha in, and minutes later, Cindy came out with a new bracelet. She held it up for Alisha to admire. Alisha’s heart dropped like a stone. The bracelet was a lot nicer than hers.

3 Alisha did not want to feel jealous, but she couldn’t help it.

The Sneaker Situation

4 A week later, Alisha went shopping with her mother and bought sneakers. Alisha wore them to school the next day. As luck would have it, Cindy also had on a new pair of sneakers. Except hers was a fancier brand that cost more money. “I like your sneaks,” Cindy said to Alisha. “They look really...comfortable.” Alisha could barely speak.

5 This was the last straw for Alisha. When she got home, she told her mother what happened. “Cindy’s sneakers are nicer than mine. My sneakers are crummy. I hate them! I hate Cindy!”

6 Her mom said, “Don’t worry about what other people have. Just find what’s special about what you have—and enjoy it.”

7 Alisha went to her room and stared at her sneakers. Well, they were comfortable. And she liked the color because it matched her jeans. She even liked the design on the sides. Maybe they weren’t so bad after all.

8 Alisha wore her sneakers to school, and felt good about them. When she saw Cindy, she said, “I love your new sneakers.”

9 And Alisha really was happy for her friend.

Directions: Read the text and write a response.

Rethinking Homework

- 1 American students spend more time than ever on homework. But if schools lighten the load, will kids still make the grade?
- 2 It was a Sunday night. Fourth grader Jackson Berg was lying in bed. Suddenly, he sat up. “I forgot to do my homework!” he exclaimed. He would have to get up early to do math problems.
- 3 Jackson is not the only one with homework troubles. U.S. kids have more homework than ever. In 2004, the University of Michigan did a survey of 2,900 students. The results were surprising. In 1981, 9- to 11-year-olds spent almost 2.5 hours on homework each week. By 2002, it was up to more than 3 hours. That amount only seems to be growing.

A Lighter Load

- 4 Some schools are telling kids to put down their pencils. School is over when the bell rings. The Pleasanton Unified School District is in California. It has a new policy. No homework on weekends for kids through fifth grade. It limits homework during the week, too. No more than 30 minutes a night for second and third graders. For fourth and fifth graders, 50 minutes. Teachers try not to give assignments over vacations and holidays.

The Homework Battle

- 5 Some teachers argue that homework is needed. They say it prepares kids for state tests and college. They worry that a lighter load now will make things tougher for kids later.
- 6 But many experts disagree. Harris Cooper is one of them. He is an expert on homework at Duke University. He studied research on homework in the elementary grades. What did he learn? He says homework does little to help students do better. He believes assignments should be short. “When kids get tired, they turn off,” he says.

—By Brenda Iasevoli

Directions: Read both of the texts and write a response.

Midnight Rendezvous

1 **Dog:** Psst. Psst. Hey, kid, over here!

2 **Cat:** Who? Me?

3 **Dog:** Yeah, you. Who else do you think I mean?

4 **Cat:** I don't know. What do you want?

5 **Dog:** Have you noticed we're in a very interesting situation?

6 **Cat:** What's that?

7 **Dog:** Take a look up there. On top of the refrigerator. Do you notice anything unusual?

8 **Cat:** Nah. I just see the cookie jar. Hey, wait a minute! That lid's not off, is it?

9 **Dog:** I think it is, pal. Does it give you any ideas?

10 **Cat:** Yeah, I think the ants are going to get in the cookies!

11 **Dog:** No, no! Does it give you any ideas about us? Any ideas about chewing and stomachs and deliciousness?

12 **Cat:** Well, yeah, the ants are going to love those cookies!

13 **Dog:** Not the ants! Us! How about you scoot on up there and gently throw down a few of those tasty tidbits. I can give you a boost.

14 **Cat:** Really? Well, all right. I'll just leap on your back and then...

15 **Dog:** Yeow!

16 **Cat:** Oh, don't be a crybaby. Okay, here I am. Let me just reach inside the cookie jar. Just a little farther...

17 CRASH!

18 **Dog:** Hey, that was my head!

19 **Cat:** Oh, no! A light just came on! Someone's coming! Run!

20 **Dog:** I'm out of here!

21 **Guinea Pig:** Hee hee hee! They fall for it every time! Hello, cookies. You're mine! All mine!

When Guinea Pigs Multiply

1 “Hey, Mo, what’s three times six?” said Henry, a multicolored guinea pig with a wild, frenzied look in his eyes.

2 “Mmwphm,” answered Mo, a chubby, tan guinea pig with puffed cheeks and cookie crumbs on his lips.

3 Henry raised his eyebrows and looked at Mo quizzically. “What?” he said.

4 “Sorry. I had a mouth full of cookies. Three times six? Easy. Eighteen.” Mo was a real math wiz. He even knew his twelve times tables, although he never had much reason to use them.

5 “Wow. I guess that’s right. Eighteen. Do you know Liz and I have eighteen kids?” Henry looked stunned and a little green in the face.

6 “Yeah, you’ve got a big family. That’s for sure. But you already knew that. Why are you asking me?” asked Mo while wiping cookie crumbs from his chest.

7 “Well, answer me this. How much is four times six?” Henry started to look almost crazed, grabbing Mo by the shoulders and shaking him like a wet noodle.

8 “Lay off me, man. Four times six is twenty-four. So what? Have a cookie,” Mo answered, wiping Henry off like a crumb and sticking a cookie in his mouth.

9 Henry spat out the cookie. “Liz just told me I’m going to be a dad again! It’s nothing but childhood as far as the eye can see! Twenty-four babies? How in the world can Liz and I manage twenty-four babies?” Henry clutched his chest with his shaking paws.

10 Mo, not to be distracted from important matters, answered Henry quite sensibly. “Easy. We’re going to need more cookies.”

