

2015 Released Items: Grade 8 End-of-Year Medium/Long Informational Text Set

The End-of-Year medium/long (M/L) informational text set requires students to engage with an informational text by responding to questions.

The 2015 blueprint for the grade 8 End-of-Year M/L informational text set includes five Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items. This document includes a complete M/L informational text set from an online summative assessment form, as well as an additional item from a paper form.

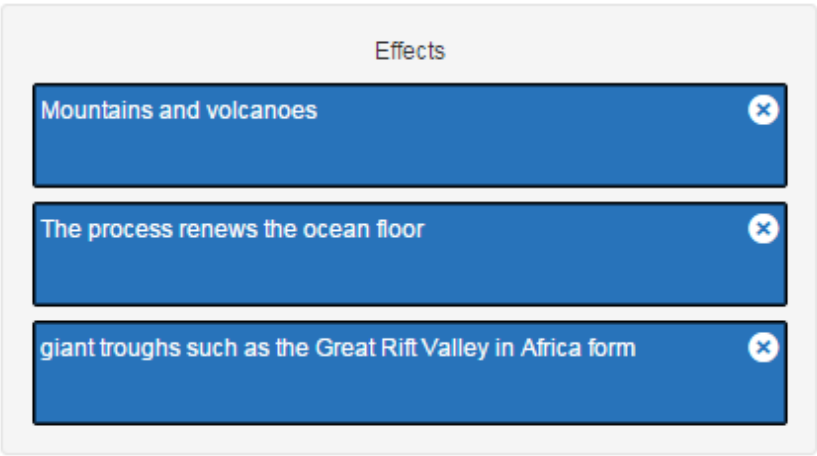
Included in this document:

- Answer key and standards alignment
- PDFs of each item with the associated text

Additional related materials not included in this document:

- PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2015 Summative Assessment

PARCC Release Items Answer and Alignment Document
ELA/Literacy Grade 8
Medium/Long Informational Set

EOY Text Type: Informational M-L		
Passage(s): Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking		
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
5727_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: B, C, G	RI 8.1.1 RST 8.5.2 RI 8.3.2
5731_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: A, E	RI 8.1.1 RST 8.4.1 L 8.4.1
5728	Item Type: TECR 	RI 8.1.1 RI 8.2.2 RI 8.3.3
5726_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: B	RI 8.1.1 RI 8.5.1 RST 8.5.2
5730_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: C	RI 8.1.1 RST 8.8.5
5729_A	Item Type: EBSR (paper form – additional item) Part A: A Part B: A, C	RI 8.1.2 RI 8.2.1

Read the article "Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking." Then answer the questions.

Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking

1 There are a few handfuls of major plates and dozens of smaller, or minor, plates. Six of the majors are named for the continents embedded within them, such as the North American, African, and Antarctic plates. Though smaller in size, the minors are no less important when it comes to shaping the Earth. The tiny Juan de Fuca plate is largely responsible for the volcanoes that dot the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

2 The plates make up Earth's outer shell, called the lithosphere. (This includes the crust and uppermost part of the mantle.) Churning currents in the molten rocks below propel them along like a jumble of conveyor belts in disrepair. Most geologic activity stems from the interplay where the plates meet or divide.

3 The movement of the plates creates three types of tectonic boundaries: convergent, where plates move into one another; divergent, where plates move apart; and transform, where plates move sideways in relation to each other.

Convergent Boundaries

4 Where plates serving landmasses collide, the crust crumples and buckles into mountain ranges. India and Asia crashed about 55 million years ago, slowly giving rise to the Himalaya, the highest mountain system on Earth. As the mash-up continues, the mountains get higher. Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth, may be a tiny bit taller tomorrow than it is today.

5 These convergent boundaries also occur where a plate of ocean dives, in a process called subduction, under a landmass. As the overlying plate lifts up, it also forms mountain ranges. In addition, the diving plate melts and is often spewed out in volcanic eruptions such as those that formed some of the mountains in the Andes of South America.

6 At ocean-ocean convergences, one plate usually dives beneath the other, forming deep trenches like the Mariana Trench in the North Pacific Ocean, the deepest point on Earth. These types of collisions can also lead to underwater volcanoes that eventually build up into island arcs like Japan.

Divergent Boundaries

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8 On land, giant troughs such as the Great Rift Valley in Africa form where plates are tugged apart. If the plates there continue to diverge, millions of years from now eastern Africa will split from the continent to form a new landmass. A mid-ocean ridge would then mark the boundary between the plates.

Transform Boundaries

9 The San Andreas Fault in California is an example of a transform boundary, where two plates grind past each other along what are called strike-slip faults. These boundaries don't produce spectacular features like mountains or oceans, but the halting motion often triggers large earthquakes, such as the 1906 one that devastated San Francisco.

Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 2.

Churning currents in the molten rocks below propel them along like a jumble of conveyor belts in disrepair.

How does this sentence contribute to the reader's understanding of the topic of the article?

- A. by describing the geologic features that can form along each of the three types of tectonic boundaries
- B. by providing an analogy connecting the concept of moving tectonic plates to a concrete image
- C. by signaling a shift in the structure of the article to a chronological narrative
- D. by connecting the introduction of the article to the central idea that the lithosphere is unique to planet Earth

Part B

Which **three** phrases provide examples that further develop the topic of the article in Part A?

- A. "... the minors are no less important . . ." (paragraph 1)
- B. "... the crust crumples and buckles . . ." (paragraph 4)
- C. "As the mash-up continues . . ." (paragraph 4)
- D. "... the highest point on Earth . . ." (paragraph 4)
- E. "... widens the giant basins." (paragraph 7)
- F. "... like mountains or oceans . . ." (paragraph 9)
- G. "... the halting motion . . ." (paragraph 9)

Read the article "Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking." Then answer the questions.

Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking

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5 These convergent boundaries also occur where a plate of ocean dives, in a process called subduction, under a landmass. As the overlying plate lifts up, it also forms mountain ranges. In addition, the diving plate melts and is often spewed out in volcanic eruptions such as those that formed some of the mountains in the Andes of South America.

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Part A

In paragraph 4, how does the author's use of **crumples**, **buckles**, **crashed**, and **mash-up** impact the reader's understanding of convergent boundaries?

- A. by helping the reader understand how to locate the convergent boundaries
- B. by helping the reader to imagine the violent movement associated with convergent boundaries
- C. by providing the reader with a comparison between convergent and divergent boundaries
- D. by illustrating for the reader the differences between convergent boundaries and transform boundaries

Part B

Which **two** additional phrases in the section titled **Convergent Boundaries** provide further support for the answer to Part A?

- A. "... landmasses collide ..." (paragraph 4)
- B. "... slowly giving rise ..." (paragraph 4)
- C. "... a plate of ocean dives ..." (paragraph 5)
- D. "... forms mountain ranges." (paragraph 5)
- E. "... spewed out ..." (paragraph 5)
- F. "... forming deep trenches ..." (paragraph 6)

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Which events can be caused when magma rises to Earth's surface and pushes two or more plates apart?

Select **three** phrases from paragraphs 7 and 8 and drag them into the boxes labeled Effects.

Cause: Magma rises and pushes plates apart.

Effects

[Empty box for effect]

[Empty box for effect]

[Empty box for effect]

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Part A

Which **best** describes the overall structure of the article?

- A. an introduction to the main topic followed by discussions of various sub-topics related to the main topic
- B. a statement of a central argument followed by explanation of ideas that support the central argument
- C. a description of a problem followed by possible solutions to the problem
- D. an explanation of various features related to the topic followed by the causes of the features

Part B

How does paragraph 9 contribute to the structure in Part A?

- A. by introducing transform boundaries as a new main topic
- B. by elaborating on one of the subtypes of boundaries created by tectonic plates
- C. by suggesting a solution to the problem of tectonic plates that move in a jerky motion
- D. by providing reasons why geologic activity is necessary for Earth's future development

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Part A

Which sentence from the article is based on a reasoned judgment?

- A. "Six of the majors are named for the continents embedded within them, such as the North American, African, and Antarctic plates." (paragraph 1)
- B. "Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth, may be a tiny bit taller tomorrow than it is today." (paragraph 4)
- C. "At ocean-ocean convergences, one plate usually dives beneath the other, forming deep trenches like the Mariana Trench in the North Pacific Ocean, the deepest point on Earth." (paragraph 6)
- D. "These boundaries don't produce spectacular features like mountains or oceans, but the halting motion often triggers large earthquakes, such as the 1906 one that devastated San Francisco." (paragraph 9)

Part B

On which piece of evidence is the reasoned judgment in Part A based?

- A. scientific theories based on geologic events in the past
- B. scientists' opinions about geologic events
- C. descriptions of similar geologic events in the past
- D. predictions about geologic events made by scientists several centuries ago

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Part A

Which sentence states a central idea of "Plate Tectonics: Moving and Shaking"?

- A. The most dramatic geologic activity on Earth happens at tectonic boundaries.
- B. The highest mountain system on Earth, the Himalaya, was created by the movement of tectonic plates.
- C. All of the world's oceans are connected by one mid-ocean ridge system.
- D. The grinding of plates at a transform boundary may cause violent earthquakes.

Part B

Which **two** sentences support the answer to Part A?

- A. "The tiny Juan de Fuca plate is largely responsible for the volcanoes that dot the Pacific Northwest of the United States." (paragraph 1)
- B. "Churning currents in the molten rocks below propel them along like a jumble of conveyor belts in disrepair." (paragraph 2)
- C. "Most geologic activity stems from the interplay where the plates meet or divide." (paragraph 2)
- D. "The movement of the plates creates three types of tectonic boundaries: convergent, where plates move into one another; divergent, where plates move apart; and transform, where plates move sideways in relation to each other." (paragraph 3)
- E. "Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth, may be a tiny bit taller tomorrow than it is today." (paragraph 4)
- F. "These convergent boundaries also occur where a plate of ocean dives, in a process called subduction, under a landmass." (paragraph 5)