

Question Stems for the Benchmarks

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read the article.
2. Write 10 multiple-choice questions with four possible answers using the stems from the section your teacher selects.
3. A question consists of two parts. The stem (see below) and the answer choices.
4. You will have to make up the answer choices. They should be by a different letter in each question. But, they must include the following:.
 - a. The correct answer
 - b. The totally incorrect answer
 - c. A distractor (Something that is close, but not correct, and could trick you into thinking it is the right answer.
 - d. A distractor
5. Do not write your own questions.
6. Write the answers to the questions on another paper.
7. Highlight or circle the answer that is correct.

Context clues, analyze words, draw conclusions (making inferences)

- What does _____ mean?
- Which two words from the article are nearly opposite?
- How does the author organize the opening paragraph of the article?
- Read this sentence from the article- What does ____ mean?
- When the author states ____she means ____?
- In which sentence does the word ____have the same meaning?
- The author states _____.
- This phrase means_____
- This sentence means _____
- *What does the phrase reveal?

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Compare and Contrast (Similarities and Differences)

- What advantage did....?
- The author compares....
- Why did ___have more than ___?
- What did ___have in common?
- In what way is this an appropriate comparison?
- *How is ___like/different ___?

Main Idea

- What is the main idea _____?
- If the article needed a new title, which would be best?
- Which _____was the most valuable_____?
- Which sentence gives the best summary of the passage?
- Which statement best describes _____?
- What is the primary topic of the first paragraph of the article?
- The author does not discuss _____because_____?
- The main idea_____was_____?
- Which sentence gives the best summary?
- Which sentence best summarizes_____?
- What is _____main goal?
- *Which sentence best characterizes

Author's purpose and point of view

- What was the author's purpose in writing this article?
- Which statement would the author _____mostly agree?
- Why did the author write _____?
- Which statement describes what the author probably thinks_____?
- What is the author's attitude _____?
- What does the author value most?
- What kind of article did the author write?
- Why does the author describe _____?
- The author would most likely agree with which statement?
- The narrator would most likely agree that _____?
- *The author wants the reader to think that_____?

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Reference and Research

- People who read this _____ will learn to _____?
- According to the chart _____?
- Which set of directions _____?
- Discuss the methods _____
- The information can be used for _____?
- Which of the following statements supports _____?
- What is the greatest benefit?
- Which of the following is the best evidence?
- What does the author use to support?
- Which statement provides the best evidence?
- How did the author organize _____?
- *Which quotation best supports _____?

Cause and Effect

- What is the main reason?
- The authors advise readers to _____ so that _____?
- Why did _____?
- Which factor _____?
- *Why is _____?

***Short or extended response**