Missouri Assessment Program

Released Practice Form
Grade 8
Science

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and Secondary Education
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Please use ONLY a Number 2 pencil for this session.

Session 1

Science

Directions
Now you will be taking the Science Practice Form. This test has two sessions that contain different types of questions. Today you will take Session 1. This session includes a combination of standalone questions and sets of questions based on a common task or scenario. Some questions will have answer choices that begin with letters. Circle the letter of each correct answer. Other questions will ask you to circle, write or show your answers. Read each question carefully and follow the directions. Mark all your answers in your test booklet.
DO NOT MARK ON THIS PAGE.
A student creates a ball-and-stick model to represent the atomic scale of a substance.

Student Model

Which of these best describes the model?

A. 1 molecule with 10 atoms
B. 1 element with 10 molecules
C. 10 molecules representing 10 elements
D. 10 elements representing 10 molecules
The drawings show two waves.

Which statement best compares these two waves?

A. Wave 1 has a higher frequency because it has a longer wavelength than wave 2.
B. Wave 1 has a higher frequency because it has a higher amplitude than wave 2.
C. Wave 2 has more energy because it has a higher amplitude than wave 1.
D. Wave 2 has more energy because it has a higher frequency than wave 1.
Circle a word in each set of options to best describe relationships between interacting parts of the human body.

The human body is composed of systems with interacting parts. Organ systems are made of (organs / organelles / tissues), which are composed of specialized cells that work together to form (organs / organelles / tissues). Each cell of the human body contains (organs / organelles / tissues) with a specific function.
During an experiment, a teacher uses a flashlight and shines the light toward a pane of clear glass with a black iron backing. A diagram of the experiment is shown.

**Part A:** Describe the path of the light as it travels from the flashlight to the air.
Continued. Please refer to the previous page for task explanation.

**Part B:** Describe the path of the light as it travels from the air to the pane of clear glass.

**Part C:** Explain why the students would not see the light travel through the black iron backing.
A scientist hiking in a desert observes a cliff. The scientist makes a
drawing of the layers of rock in the cliff and the types of fossils
observed in the layers. Based on observations, the scientist
determines layers 3 and 5 were formed from cooled lava. The
scientist’s drawing is shown.

Cliff Rock Layers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part A: Identify the oldest layer in the rock cliff and explain your reasoning for the layer chosen.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part B: Explain how the environment has changed over time at this location. Include evidence in your explanation.

Part C: A scientist claims that volcanic eruptions caused dinosaurs to become extinct at this location. Decide whether you agree or disagree with the scientist’s claim and then explain your decision.
A student makes a model of the solar system on a poster board. The student uses foam balls to represent objects in the solar system. The student’s model is shown.

**Part A:** Explain one error concerning the size of the foam balls in the model.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
6  **Continued.** Please refer to the previous page for task explanation.

**Part B:** Explain one error concerning distances between foam balls in the model.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
The graphs show the average global air temperatures and global fossil fuel consumption from about 1860 to 2000.

Part A: Describe the overall pattern of change in average global temperatures from 1860 to 2000.
Part B: A student claims the change in average global air temperatures is a result of burning fossil fuels. Explain whether the student’s claim is plausible based on the data.

Part C: Describe two possible changes to the environment most likely caused by the pattern shown in the average global air temperatures.
Energy in Motion

Students want to design an investigation to learn about energy and motion. They start their investigation by making two setups.

For Setup 1 they attach three shelves at the following heights: 1 meter, 2 meters, and 3 meters. The students place a 1-kilogram ball at each shelf height. The students observe the ball stays at rest when set on each of the shelves.

For Setup 2 they build a ramp using wood and a table.

They roll the 1-kilogram ball from the top of the ramp and record the speed of the ball as it travels down the ramp.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time in Motion (seconds)</th>
<th>Ball Speed (meters per second)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One student is drawing a model to represent the investigation for Setup 1. Complete the student’s model using the following steps.

- Draw a ball on one of the three shelves where it will have the most potential energy.
- Write the number of the type of force that causes the ball to have the most potential energy in the box.
- Draw the arrow to show the direction of the force that causes the ball to have the most potential energy in the box.
Based on the data collected for Setup 2, a student made the following claim about the energy of the ball.

**Student Claim**

As the ball travels down the ramp the kinetic energy increases and the potential energy stays the same.

Which statement *best* evaluates the student’s claim?

A. The claim is incorrect because the potential energy increases when the speed of the ball increases.

B. The claim is incorrect because the potential energy of the ball is being transferred to kinetic energy as it travels down the ramp.

C. The claim is correct because the speed of the ball increases, causing the ball to remain in motion as it travels beyond the ramp.

D. The claim is correct because the speed of the ball is the same as its kinetic energy, and the speed of the ball increases as it travels down the ramp.

A student adds a material to the ramp that causes less friction between the ramp and the 1-kilogram ball. The student plans on rolling the ball from the top of the modified ramp.

Circle the word or phrase from each set of options to complete the statements that *best* predict the results from using the modified ramp.

Less friction acting on the ball will create (balanced/unbalanced) forces resulting in the speed of the ball to (increase/decrease/stay the same) as it travels down the ramp. The ball traveling down the modified ramp with less friction will have (a slower speed than/a faster speed than/the same speed as) the ball traveling down the first ramp.
This question has two parts.

A student shapes a piece of clay into a small cube. The student places the clay cube at the bottom of the ramp in Setup 2. The student rolls the 1-kilogram ball down the ramp and observes the collision between the ball and the clay cube.

**Part A:** Select one variable the student could change to Setup 2 to reduce the force of the ball during the collision.

A. Replace the wood ramp with a ramp made of smoother material.

B. Reduce the height of the ramp from 1 meter to 0.5 meters.

**Part B:** Which statement provides the **best** support for the variable you selected in Part A?

A. This would decrease the force of friction acting on the ball causing it to increase in speed.

B. This would increase the force of friction acting on the ball causing it to decrease in speed.

C. This would increase the potential energy of the ball resulting in an increase in kinetic energy.

D. This would decrease the potential energy of the ball resulting in a decrease in kinetic energy.
The student switches the ball used in Setup 1 with a ball that has a mass of 2 kilograms. Another student states that the potential energy of the 2-kilogram ball would be the same as the potential energy of the 1-kilogram ball since they would be placed at the same heights.

Which statement best explains whether the student’s statement is correct or incorrect?

A. The statement is correct because the gravitational force acting on objects with different masses is the same.

B. The statement is incorrect because an object with more mass has less potential energy due to increased air resistance.

C. The statement is incorrect because more force is needed to lift an object with more mass to the same height as an object with less mass.

D. The statement is correct because the potential energy of any object with mass is based on an object’s height above the ground and the speed at which it travels.
A student rolls a 3-kilogram ball down the same ramp used in Setup 2. The speed of the ball after 2 seconds was 4 meters per second. The student concludes that the kinetic energy of the 3-kilogram ball is identical to the 1-kilogram ball after it has rolled down the ramp for 2 seconds.

Explain whether the student’s conclusion is correct or incorrect. Use evidence from the investigation to support your answer.
The Unexpected Effects of Wolves in Yellowstone National Park

In the 1920s, wolves were officially removed from Yellowstone National Park. Wolves are predators that occasionally prey on domesticated animals, and people were afraid that they might also harm humans. They used hunting and other methods to remove all of the wolves from Yellowstone.

By the 1990s, the Yellowstone ecosystem had significantly changed. One major difference was the reduction of aspen, cottonwood, and willow trees growing along streams. Yellowstone was experiencing a drought, and without any wolves to prey on elk, the elk population was at its highest level. Elk eat young trees and shrubs, especially in winter when the snow covers up shorter plants. During this period, nearly all of the young trees were eaten by elk before they could grow to maturity. This loss affected many animals, including the birds that nest in trees, the bison that compete with elk for the young trees, and the beavers that use the trees as a source of food and shelter.

In 1995 and 1996, a total of 21 wolves were released into Yellowstone. Since then, scientists have been recording observations in the Yellowstone ecosystem. For example, they observed wolves often eating only about half of a prey animal and the rest of the animal was then eaten by scavengers. Scientists also observed more young trees and shrubs growing to maturity. The return of the trees has seemed to slow the water flow in streams and it provides beavers material to build dams and shelters. Beaver dams are barriers across moving water. The dams slow the streams even further and trap sediments in areas where new willow trees can grow.
Estimated Population Changes after Wolves are Released into Yellowstone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wolves (Number of Individuals)</th>
<th>Elk (Number of Individuals)</th>
<th>Bison (Number of Individuals)</th>
<th>Beavers (Number of Colonies)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The overall effect of the wolves seems to be helping to restore a balance in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Although much work still needs to be done.
This question has two parts.

**Part A:** Circle an organism from each set of options to complete the model of the food chain that occurs in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

![Food chain diagram](image)

- aspen trees
- beavers
- bison
- wolves

**Part B:** Circle the phrase in the set of options to **best** describe the model in Part A.

This food chain model shows the (flow of energy / cycling of matter) in the ecosystem.
The table shows the change in the size of willow tree stems in sample areas of the Yellowstone ecosystem between 1995 and 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Willow Tree Stem Diameter (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which conclusion about the number of beaver colonies between 2000 and 2010 is **best** supported by the data?

A. The number of beaver colonies decreased because the amount of available food for beavers decreased.

B. The number of beaver colonies increased because the beavers adapted to a change in the food sources available.

C. The number of beaver colonies increased because the amount of available resources for food and shelter increased.

D. The number of beaver colonies decreased because the beavers were unable to use the resources for food and to build shelters.
Grizzly bears, black bears, eagles, and ravens are scavengers in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Based on the information, which statement explains how the reintroduction of wolves has most likely affected the populations of scavengers?

A. Scavenger populations likely decreased because wolves prey on scavengers.
B. Scavenger populations likely decreased because wolves and scavengers compete for the same resources.
C. Scavenger populations likely increased because wolves provide a food source for scavengers.
D. Scavenger populations likely increased because wolves provide habitat for scavengers when the wolves create and abandon their dens.

Which statement best explains how the reduction in the elk population might have affected the bison population?

A. Fewer elk led to fewer bison being preyed on by wolves.
B. Fewer elk consumed young trees, increasing the food available for bison.
C. Fewer elk led to an increase in competition for resources between elk and bison.
D. Fewer elk consumed young trees, decreasing the variety of food sources available for both species.

How can beaver activity change conditions in the Yellowstone ecosystem to result in an increase in the beaver population?

A. by building dams that continue to slow the water and encourage willow trees to grow
B. by building dams that reduce the height of the water so that more willow trees can grow
C. by helping willow trees grow taller so that they become more useful for beavers when they build dams
D. by helping to move soil from streambanks so that more willow trees will fall into the water and create natural log dams
Identify where the components should be placed in the model to show the relationships between living and nonliving components of the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Write the number of each component in one of the boxes in the model.

**Simplified Model of Energy Flow and Cycling of Matter**

1. Consumers: elk, bison, wolves
2. decomposers
3. the sun
4. Producers: aspen and willow trees
5. nutrients, minerals, and gases
Less snow falls during a warmer-than-normal winter in the Yellowstone ecosystem. The thinner snow cover on the ground allows for more plants to be visible than when the snow cover is thick.

**Part A:** Describe how a winter with less snowfall might affect the populations of willow, aspen, and cottonwood trees.

**Part B:** Describe how a winter with less snowfall might affect the population of elk.
continued. Please refer to the previous page for task explanation.

Part C: Some scientists predict that, over time, the average thickness of the snow cover in the Yellowstone ecosystem will decrease as global air temperatures increase. Predict a long-term effect of the reduced snow cover in the Yellowstone ecosystem on the beaver population. Be sure to support your prediction using evidence.
Scientists in a different area with an ecosystem similar to that of Yellowstone are considering different solutions for protecting trees in hopes of restoring the ecosystem to its previous levels of biodiversity. One scientist recommends placing fences that are two meters in height around areas of existing trees rather than introducing wolves to the ecosystem.

Complete the chart by selecting one likely advantage and one likely disadvantage of using fences to protect the trees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantage to the Solution</th>
<th>Disadvantage to the Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>young trees would be able to grow to maturity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birds would have limited access to trees for building nests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the elk population would increase as the adult tree population would increase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beavers would be unable to access the trees for food and to build their shelters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATTENTION!

Do NOT go on until you are told to do so.

STOP
DO NOT MARK ON THIS PAGE.
Please use ONLY a Number 2 pencil for this session.

Session 2

Science

Directions

Now you will be taking the Science Practice Form. This test has two sessions that contain different types of questions. Today you will take Session 2. This session includes a combination of standalone questions and Performance Events that contain a set of questions based on a common task or scenario. Some questions will have answer choices that begin with letters. Circle the letter of each correct answer. Other questions will ask you to circle, write or show your answers. Read each question carefully and follow the directions. Mark all your answers in your test booklet.
A student is comparing characteristics of three toy cars.

### Characteristics of Three Toy Cars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toy Car</th>
<th>Speed (meters/second)</th>
<th>Mass (kilograms)</th>
<th>Kinetic Energy (Joules)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Circle a word or phrase from each set of options to complete the following sentence based on the data provided in the table.

As the (speed / mass) increases, the kinetic energy of the car (increases / decreases / stays the same).
Students are given two solid substances and two liquid substances to mix together in different combinations. The data table shows the initial observations and final observations for each combination of substances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Initial Observations When Mixed Together</th>
<th>Final Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid A and Liquid A</td>
<td>bubbles immediately form but quickly disappear</td>
<td>no solid visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid A and Liquid B</td>
<td>solid falls to bottom of liquid and slowly dissolves</td>
<td>small amount of solid still visible at bottom of liquid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid B and Liquid A</td>
<td>bubbles immediately form and continue forming for 15 seconds</td>
<td>small amount of solid still visible at bottom of liquid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid A and Liquid B</td>
<td>temperature of solution decreases by 14°C</td>
<td>no visible color change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete the chart to identify whether a chemical reaction or a physical change occurred when the substances were combined.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical Reaction</th>
<th>Physical Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid A and Liquid A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid A and Liquid B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid B and Liquid A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid A and Liquid B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The chart shows some distances between objects in the universe.

### Universe Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objects in the Universe</th>
<th>Approximate Distance between Objects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth and the moon</td>
<td>382,500 kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth and the sun</td>
<td>149.6 million kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptune and the sun</td>
<td>4,495.1 million kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth and the star Proxima Centauri</td>
<td>40,208,000 million kilometers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Identify where each measurement should be placed in the model to compare distances in the universe. Write the number from each measurement in one of the boxes in the model.

#### Comparing Distances in the Universe

Longest Distance

1. Distance from Earth to the sun
2. Distance from Earth to the moon
3. Distance across our solar system
4. Distance across the Milky Way galaxy

Shortest Distance
The diagrams show a plant cell and an animal cell.

**Part A:** Identify two organelles that are present in plant cells that are absent from animal cells.

**Part B:** Explain why one of the organelles identified in Part A is **not** necessary for animal cells to survive.
A student draws a diagram to model the potential energy of objects. The diagram includes three rubber spheres of equal mass, one ramp, and one shelf.

Part A: Identify two spheres that have the same potential energy. Explain how this can be determined from the diagram.
Part B: Identify two spheres that have unequal potential energy. Identify the sphere which has more potential energy.

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The map shows how North America looked approximately 100 million years ago. There are five main areas labeled on the map.
Part A: Identify the main areas of North America on the map where people would expect to find 100-million-year-old sedimentary rocks that contain fossils of microscopic ocean organisms.

Part B: Oil and gas are formed from the remains of microscopic ocean organisms. A student claims that the oil and gas deposits in Missouri are about 100 million years old. Based on the map, decide whether you agree or disagree with the student's claim and then explain your decision.
The diagram shows the forces applied to a stone sphere on a smooth surface.

Part A: Describe the motion of the stone sphere based on the forces shown in the diagram.

Part B: The same sphere is placed on a rough surface, and the same horizontal forces are acting on the sphere. Describe how the motion of the sphere will most likely change when the stone sphere is placed on the rougher surface.
Changes in Organisms over Time

Using fossil evidence, scientists can learn how organisms have changed over long periods of time. The chart shows information about how traits of ancestors of the modern horse have changed.

### Characteristics of Four Horse Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse Species</th>
<th>Estimated Time When Present</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hyracotherium</strong></td>
<td>55 million years ago</td>
<td>Small, fox-sized animal with a short face and low-crowned teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orohippus</strong></td>
<td>45–52 million years ago</td>
<td>Similar in size to Hyracotherium but with a slimmer body, slimmer legs, and a longer head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mesohippus</strong></td>
<td>32–37 million years ago</td>
<td>Taller and longer than Orohippus; eyes rounder and set wider apart and farther back than those of Hyracotherium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miohippus</strong></td>
<td>25–32 million years ago</td>
<td>Larger than Mesohippus, with a longer head and extra material on its upper molars, which allowed it to chew tougher plants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People such as farmers and scientists can affect the traits of organisms, including horses, cattle, and corn. Fossil evidence supports the idea that modern corn, also known as maize, is a descendent of teosinte plants. Over time, people chose to plant teosinte seeds from the larger and more productive plants. The size and number of kernels produced in each generation increased and, over thousands of years of breeding, resulted in modern corn plants.
Modern cattle are often bred for traits such as high milk production, muscle growth, and small or no horns. Aurochs are one of the earlier cattle species and are ancestors of many modern cattle species. Aurochs were large cattle with long horns, fed on grasses and other plants, and lived in grassland habitats of Europe and Asia. The large horns helped the aurochs protect themselves and their offspring from predators. Most modern cattle have more traits that are desired by people rather than traits that would help them survive in the wild.
Use the graph to answer the question.

Select two statements that would best explain the change in horses’ body mass over millions of years.

A. There was increased food availability.
B. There was decreased food availability.
C. Horses with larger body masses were less likely to survive and reproduce.
D. Horses with larger body masses were more likely to survive and reproduce.
E. Large body mass occurred in individuals as they became adults.
A scientist finds a site that contains fossils of Orohippus, Mesohippus, and Miohippus.

Identify the species of horse fossils that would be found in the uppermost layer of rock and in the bottommost layer of rock. Use data from the chart to explain your answer.

**Species of fossil found in uppermost layer of rock:**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**Species of fossil found in bottommost layer of rock:**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

During the period when aurochs existed on Earth, they were preyed on by large predators. Some individual aurochs had stronger muscles than others. Using an understanding of natural selection, which statement explains why there would most likely be an increase in the stronger-muscle trait in a population of aurochs?

A. Individuals with stronger muscles have a large body mass, and they would be preyed on more than other aurochs.

B. Since having stronger muscles is an inherited trait, it would be passed on to every individual in the population that was not preyed on.

C. Individuals with stronger muscles would be more likely to run away from predators, and this trait would be passed on to their future offspring.

D. Since having stronger muscles would require individuals to consume more food, they would be more exposed to predators than the other aurochs.

There have been studies of a population of cattle that had once been raised by people and then released into the wild. Over hundreds of years of the cattle being in the wild, the average length of their horns increased. Currently an adult male’s horn can be over 165 centimeters in length.

Circle a word or phrase in each set of options to complete the explanation of why the length of horns of these cattle most likely increased while they were living in the wild.

The population of cattle likely had (no / some) genetic variation causing (all cattle to have long horns / some of the cattle to have longer horns than others). Long horns are a (beneficial / harmful) trait. Cattle with longer horns are (less / better) able to survive and reproduce.
This question has two parts.

Some birds will eat corn seeds and teosinte seeds. The chart shows the characteristics of these two types of seeds.

### Characteristics of Corn and Teosinte Seeds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corn Seeds</th>
<th>Teosinte Seeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Corn Seeds Image]</td>
<td>![Teosinte Seeds Image]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• usually yellow in color</td>
<td>• dark brown in color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• seeds are exposed because they are not covered by a casing</td>
<td>• tough, hard seed casing surrounds each seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• seeds remain on the plant’s cob after they mature</td>
<td>• seeds easily release from the stalk of the plant after they mature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part A:** Corn and teosinte plants are grown in the same area. Which type of plant would likely be more successful at producing offspring that would develop into new plants?

A. corn  
B. teosinte

**Part B:** Select two reasons to support your answer in Part A.

A. The seeds are large.  
B. The seeds have a protective structure.  
C. The seeds are more easily consumed by birds.  
D. The seeds that fall to the ground are difficult for birds to see.  
E. The seeds remain on the plant rather than falling to the ground.
Scientists have developed new techniques for producing organisms with desirable traits. Genetic modification allows scientists to insert genetic material from one organism into another organism. For example, one type of genetically modified corn contains genetic material from a species of bacterium. The genetically modified corn plants produce a specific substance that causes pests to die when they feed on these corn plants.

Which statement best describes how genetic modification technology differs from the technique used with teosinte plants thousands of years ago?

A. Genetic modification technology is available to more people.
B. Genetic modification technology requires a longer time to create a change in a species.
C. Genetic modification technology introduces completely new traits into an unrelated organism.
D. Genetic modification technology influences which traits are passed from parents to offspring.
The Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain

The Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain is a mountain range in the Pacific Ocean. All mountains in the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain were formed from volcanic activity. Most of the mountains are classified as seamounts. The difference between an island and a seamount is that an island rises above sea level and a seamount does not.

Scientists determined the ages of the rocks that form the mountains of the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain. The map shows for each seamount or island its location, its age in millions of years (my), and its distance from the island of Hawaii.
The island of Hawaii is the only island in the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain currently experiencing volcanic activity. Scientists have proposed a theory that states that the mountains of the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain form at a hotspot where magma rises from Earth’s mantle. As the Pacific Plate moves, new volcanic mountains form over the hotspot. The diagram shows the hotspot theory.

**Hotspot Theory**

Based on the hotspot theory diagram, circle a word or phrase in each set of options to complete the statement.

Energy from (the sun / Earth’s interior) causes (ocean currents / convection in the mantle) and the movement of the (hotspot / Pacific Plate).
The mountains in the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain are experiencing both constructive Earth processes that build land and destructive Earth processes that break down land.

Identify whether each of the sentences below describes a constructive or a destructive Earth process. Write the number of each sentence in one of the two categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constructive Earth Processes</th>
<th>Destructive Earth Processes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lava crystallizes into volcanic rock.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Volcanic rock is weathered and eroded.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Magma moves from Earth’s mantle to the crust.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A seamount transforms into an island.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Erosion transforms an island into a seamount.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Select three statements that provide evidence to support that the hotspot theory could explain the formation of the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain.

A. Older islands are farther from the hotspot than younger islands.
B. Younger islands are farther from the hotspot than older islands.
C. The oldest mountains in the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain are islands.
D. The oldest mountains in the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain are seamounts.
E. The age of the mountains increases as the distance between the mountains and Hawaii increases.
F. The age of the mountains increases as the distance between the mountains and Hawaii decreases.

Write the number of each event in the model to show the correct sequence of events in the development of Koko Seamount.

48 Million Years Ago

1. The Pacific Plate moves Koko off the hotspot.
2. Erosion transforms the volcanic island into a seamount.
3. Magma erupts to Earth’s surface above the hotspot.
4. Lava cools into volcanic rock and collects to form an island.

Today
This question has two parts.

Part A: Using the information from the map, make a graph to compare the approximate distance from Hawaii and approximate age of the mountains in the Hawaiian–Emperor Seamount Chain. In your graph, be sure to include data from the seven mountains.

![Distance vs. Age of Mountains in the Hawaiian-Emperor Seamount Chain](image)

Part B: Circle a word or phrase in each set of options to make a conclusion based on the data in the graph.

As the Pacific Plate moves (northwest / southeast), the age of each mountain (increases / decreases / stays the same) as the distance from the hotspot (increases / decreases / stays the same).
The Pacific Plate has not always moved in the direction that it is moving today. Based on the information from the map, which statement explains when the Pacific Plate most likely changed direction?

A. The direction changed about 25 million years ago because the mountains changed from islands to seamounts.

B. The direction changed about 35 million years ago because there are fewer mountains in the chain before that age.

C. The direction changed about 40 million years ago because the pattern in the location of mountains changed.

D. The direction changed about 65 million years ago because Suiko Seamount is the oldest mountain.

Which statement best explains how erosion transforms an island into a seamount?

A. Energy from the sun causes sediments to be deposited on the island and compacted into sedimentary rock.

B. Energy from the sun causes the movement of wind and water, which transports sediments from the island to the ocean.

C. Energy from Earth’s interior causes sediments to be deposited on the island and compacted into sedimentary rock.

D. Energy from Earth’s interior causes the movement of wind and water, which transports sediments from the island to the ocean.
One of the volcanoes on the island of Hawaii is experiencing volcanic activity. A team of researchers at a volcanic monitoring site recorded two types of earthquakes for three months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Volcanic Earthquakes</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Tectonic Earthquakes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key:
- □ number of volcanic earthquakes
- ■ number of tectonic earthquakes
- ▲ eruption event

**Part A:** Describe a recommendation the researchers should make to people in the area about the risk for eruption events in April after the most recent activity in March.
21 Continued. Please refer to the previous page for task explanation.

**Part B:** Based on the data, describe a difference in the warning time given to people preceding volcanic events compared to the warning time preceding a tornado. Explain how the warning time can have a positive effect on mitigating the hazards of a volcanic eruption.