

7th Grade
Using Information Resources
Sample Test Questions
from the
Teacher's Guide to State Assessment
(answers in the TGSA)

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Support Teachers

Using Information Resources

Below is a set of reference sources that is representative of the types of materials that may be included in this section of the *iLEAP* English Language Arts test. All reference sources will be related to a single research topic, and students will use the sources to answer a set of multiple-choice questions. Questions 1 through 5 following these reference sources are samples of the kinds of questions that may be asked on this part of the *iLEAP* English Language Arts test.

Sample Using Information Resources Materials and Questions

Introduction: In this test, you are asked to look at some reference materials and then use the materials to answer the questions on pages __ and __.

Research Topic: The Pyramids of Egypt

Suppose you want to find out more about the pyramids of Egypt for a report you are writing. Four different sources of information about the pyramids of Egypt are contained in this test. The information sources and the page numbers where you can find them are listed below.

1. Article from the Magazine *This Is Egypt*
"Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words?" (page __)

2. Results of a Search Using FindIt.net
Egyptian Pyramids (page __)

3. Excerpts from the Book *Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt*
a. Copyright Page (page __)
b. Table of Contents (page __)
c. "The Obelisks" (page __)

4. Excerpt from the Book *Architecture in the Ancient World*
Monumental Monuments Chart (page __)

Note: Model bibliographic entries for different types of documents are on page __.

Directions: Skim pages __ through __ to become familiar with the information contained in these sources. Remember that these are reference sources, so you should not read every word in each source. Once you have skimmed through these sources, answer the questions on pages __ and __. Use the information sources to help you answer the questions. As you work through the questions, go back and read the parts that will give you the information you need.

1. Article from the Magazine *This Is Egypt*
“Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words?”

This Is Egypt

May 2005

Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words?

By Khaled Al-Katob

If you were running for class president of the student body, your campaign probably would include posters and flyers with written information about yourself and your platform. Would these posters and flyers include primitive drawings of items in nature that represented you? They would if you were running for office in ancient Egypt.



The ancient Egyptians used primitive drawings called *hieroglyphs*, which were part of a system of picture writing called *hieroglyphics*. Hieroglyphs were drawn on the walls of pyramids, ancient tombs, pottery, ceramics, and papyrus to record the history of Egypt.

The English language is based on a mere 26 letters, while the ancient Egyptians used more than 2,000 hieroglyphic characters.

Each hieroglyph represented a sound or an idea, using a common object in ancient Egypt—a bird, a snake, food (such as bread), or water (such as a river). The ancient Egyptians had two written forms of language, but hieroglyphic writing was considered the more formal of the two.

In the English language, we write our words, phrases, and sentences on lines and read them starting at the left and moving right. Hieroglyphics were written in rows or columns without spaces and could be read from left to right or from right to left. Sound confusing? The writers of hieroglyphics always included a symbol that was universally recognized as the starting point so the reader would know where to start and which direction to go.

Written hieroglyphics rarely included vowels. This may seem strange but is similar to abbreviations in the English language. For example, we use *ft.* for a measurement of feet and *ltd.* as the abbreviation for *limited*. Vowels were used only if a word was too confusing without a vowel. The ancient Egyptians also used *biliterals*, which were hieroglyphs substituted in place of pairs of alphabet characters. The sound of the biliteral hieroglyph was the same as the sound of the alphabet characters it replaced.

2. Results of a Search Using FindIt.net Egyptian Pyramids



EgyptToday.com

Located in northern Africa, modern-day Egypt is not quite the same as it was in ancient times. Facts and information about the current **Egyptian** government, population, culture, environment, and geography can be found at EgyptToday.com.

PharoahPharoah.com

Thousands of years ago, Egypt was ruled by pharaohs who belonged to ruling families or dynasties. Introduce yourself to and become familiar with them through this exhaustive online biography of the kings of Egypt. Find out why so little is known of the members of the earliest **Egyptian** dynasties at PharoahPharoah.com.

SeeThePyramids.com

Explore the fascinating **pyramids** and tombs of ancient Egypt. Walk through the passageways into the galleries and chambers and discover the dimensions of these captivating monuments. Use conversion charts to determine how these structures compare in size to other buildings . . . even your own house! Visit SeeThePyramids.com.

EgyptianDiscovery.com

Download online games, screen savers, and wallpaper. Games include The Pharaoh King and Return to the **Pyramids**. Print coloring pages, logic puzzles, mazes, and greeting cards. Send an online greeting to a friend or search for the buried treasure at EgyptianDiscovery.com.

ScienceEgypt.com

Discover the fascinating process of archaeology and exploration of the ancient pyramids. Find out why the ancient **Egyptians** preserved life through mummification and who or what was considered for this process at ScienceEqypt.com.

AmazingEgypt.com

Preview the Ancient Egypt exhibit at the Washington Natural History Museum before it opens to the public! Get an up-close look at the amazing collection of ancient artifacts, many from inside the **pyramids**, at AmazingEqypt.com.

[Previous Page](#)

Result page [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#)

[Next Page](#)

3. Excerpt from the Book *Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt*
a. Copyright Page

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Published by:
Archaeology Press
47 W. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL
United States of America

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Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt
I. Title.
ISBN: 11-12345-67-8910

3. Excerpt from the Book *Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt*
c. “The Obelisks”

The Obelisks

For years the construction of the ancient pyramids of Egypt has baffled the modern world. Scientists find it hard to understand how the pyramids were constructed with such impressive precision before the dawn of modern technology. But the pyramids aren't the only unexplained mystery of ancient Egypt; the obelisks are equally amazing and difficult to comprehend.

An obelisk is a tall four-sided, usually tapered structure that is often monolithic, meaning it has been carved from a single piece of stone. That means these sky-high monuments were not compiled brick by brick but rather were carved over years from one giant rock. No one knows how many obelisks were once constructed in Egypt, but only a few remain.

The ancient Egyptian word for obelisk was *Tejen*, a term considered synonymous with “defense” or “protection.” The obelisks were erected in large, open spaces and on top of temples. The ancient Egyptians believed that the presence of the monuments empowered and protected the people near them.

Although similar in structure with a quadrangular base and a point at the top, each Egyptian obelisk was unique. Typically the obelisk had inscriptions on all four sides, and each obelisk was

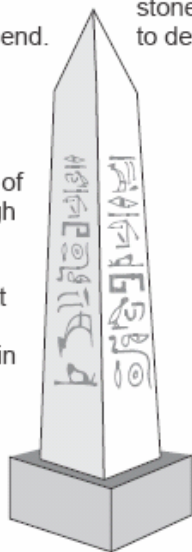
painstakingly carved from the granite quarries in Aswan.

One unextracted obelisk in Aswan provides clues as to how the ancient Egyptians ever pulled one from the ground. Mystery shrouds the process, but research suggests that laborers may have used a greenish-black stone ball— basically a twelve-pound rock—to delicately chip away at the granite.

Hours of pounding usually resulted in only a handful of dust. Some conclude it may have taken a lifetime for hundreds of laborers to chip away and produce a completed product.

If fissures appeared on the rock during the process, the project was abandoned. This was the fate of the Unfinished Obelisk in the Aswan quarry. Had it been completed, the obelisk would have stood almost 140 feet tall and weighed more than 1,100 tons. In ancient Egyptian terms, that's the weight of about 150 male elephants.


The sheer size leads one to wonder how the Egyptians got these monuments out of the ground and erected on the tops of temples. Modern engineers have theorized that everything from simple levers to kites that harnessed the power of the wind helped pull out the monuments. Teams of scientists have tried to recreate the process, but the ancient Egyptian method remains a mystery for now.



4. Excerpt from the Book *Architecture in the Ancient World*
Monumental Monuments Chart

Monumental Monuments			
	The Pyramid of Khafre	The Great Pyramid of Khufu	The Pyramid of Menkaure
Estimated Time of Construction	around 2558–2532 B.C.	around 2589–2566 B.C.	Undetermined
Original Height	143.5 m (470.79 ft.)	146.6 m (480.96 ft.)	65.5 m (215 ft.)
Current Height	136.4 m (447.50 ft.)	38.75 m (127.13 ft.)	62 m (203 ft.)
Length of Side	215.25 m (706.19 ft.)	230.37 m (755.8 ft.)	108.63 m (356.4 ft.)
Angle of Incline	53° 7' 48"	51° 50' 40"	51° 20' 25"
Estimated Volume	1,659,200 cu m	2,521,000 cu m	Undetermined
Total Blocks of Stone	Undetermined	More than 2,300,000	Undetermined
Base	11 acres	13 square acres	3 square acres
Total Weight	Undetermined	6.5 million tons	Undetermined
Average Weight of Individual Blocks of Stone	2.5 to 7.0 tons	2.5 tons	Undetermined
Construction Material	Limestone, red granite	Limestone, granite	Limestone, red granite

The Sphinx	
Estimated Time of Construction	Undetermined
Size	Length 45 m (150 ft.) Paws 15 m (50 ft.) long Head 10 m (30 ft.) long Face 6 m (20 ft.) wide
Total Weight	Undetermined
Construction Material	Soft limestone



Model Bibliographic Entries

The following sample bibliographic entries are adapted from the *MLA* (Modern Language Association) *Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. They show some acceptable formats for bibliographic entries.

A Book by a Single Author

Harris, Celia. Interesting Habitats. Chicago: Grayson, 1996.
(Author) (Title of work) (City) (Publisher) (Year)

A Book by More Than One Author

Baraty, Joseph, and Rosa Garcia. Marsh Birds. New York: Wenday, 1982.
(Authors) (Title of work) (City) (Publisher) (Year)

An Encyclopedia Entry

"Dwarfed Trees." Encyclopedia Americana. 1958.
(Title of article) (Name of encyclopedia) (Year)

A Magazine Article

Chen, David. "Floating Down the River." Our Wildlife 9 July 1988: 120–25.
(Author) (Title of article) (Name of publication) (Date of issue) (Page numbers)

A Book Issued by an Organization Identifying No Author

National Wildlife Group. Swamp Life. Washington: National Wildlife Group, 1985.
(Name of organization) (Title of work) (City) (Publisher) (Year)

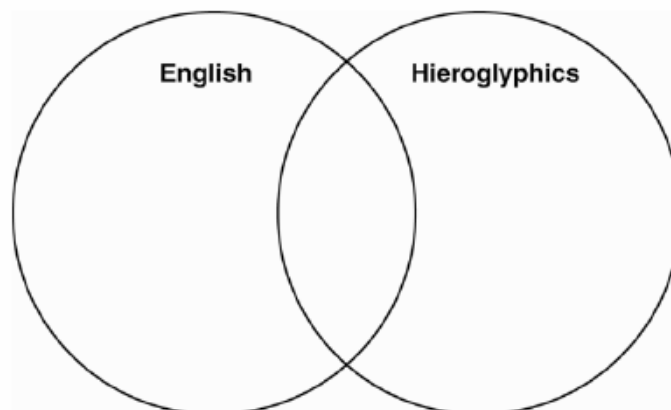
1 On which page of the book *Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt* would you find information about how the pyramids were built?

- A Page 41
- B Page 49
- C Page 66
- D Page 89

2 To find information about the people of ancient Egypt, which link from the search using FindIt.net would be most useful?

- A AmazingEgypt.com
- B PharoahPharoah.com
- C SeeThePyramids.com
- D EgyptianDiscovery.com

3 Look at the Venn diagram based on information in “Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words?” from the magazine *This Is Egypt*.



Which information should be placed in the overlapping area of the two circles?

- A Uses abbreviations
- B Can be read from left to right
- C Contains more than 2,000 characters
- D Contains characters that represent ideas

4 What is the acceptable bibliographic entry for the book *Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt*? Refer to the model bibliographic entries.

- A Patterson, Owen T. "Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt." Chicago: Archaeology Press, 1999.
- B Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt. Patterson, Owen T. Chicago: Archaeology Press, 1999.
- C Patterson, Owen T. Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt. Chicago: Archaeology Press, 1999.
- D Patterson, Owen T. Exploring the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt. Chicago, Archaeology Press, 1999.

5 What can be determined using the Monumental Monuments chart from the book *Architecture in the Ancient World*?

- A The total weight of Khafre
- B The estimated volume of Menkaure
- C The total blocks of stone of Menkaure
- D The estimated time of construction of Khufu