

Constructed Response Questions – Grade 4 - 2013

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Coyote Tries to Steal the Honey

At the beginning of the long days of summer, Coyote had seen Bear slowly walk up to a lonely tree that sat in an open field. The branches of this tree remained bare throughout the warm months. When the sun was high it cast shadows in the shapes of strange insects upon the grass. It was here the bees kept their treasure. They kept it buried in the base of this old hollow tree.

Coyote wore a smile as wide as the sky, for he knew what he had to do to have a taste of the bees' sweet honey. He knew that Bear was able to simply take the honey from the base of the tree. The bees made angry noises, but that did not seem to bother Bear one bit. They swarmed around his big dark body as he sat and ate. When he was finished he shook them off, got up, and walked away. Coyote thought about this all summer. If he could just make a suit that looked like Bear's, he would be able to dip his paw into the base of the tree and out would come sweet golden honey.

It took Coyote all morning to make the suit. He gathered large pieces of bark from the trees to make the arms and legs. He found thin vines to tie the different pieces of the suit together. Then he shredded smaller pieces of bark against a rock and mixed these with dried pine needles so it looked like fur.

Right before he went to visit the bees' lonely tree he covered the solid parts of the suit in mud and added the fur. He put it on and walked into the open field. The parts hung loosely on his body. The sun was high in the sky. The shadows danced. Coyote could not see what he looked like, but he imagined his shadow matched that of Bear on the day he took the honey.

As he neared the hollow tree he heard a growing hum. He made a similar noise and he saw one or two bees land on his bear suit. As he drew closer there was more and more buzzing around him. Coyote could tell that the bees were not happy. He did not care one bit. He wanted a taste of the honey so badly.

It wasn't until he attempted to put his paw down into the tree's belly that he felt the first sting. It felt like when he had gotten stuck by the thorn bush while he tried to bury his nose in the sweet-smelling flowers. As his paw sank deeper into the tree and the buzz grew louder, Coyote began to feel more and more sharp pains. He yelped and drew his paw away, but the buzzing and pain just grew.

All thoughts of honey faded, and he fled. He was nothing more than a howling spot of darkness moving quickly across the field. A trail of angry bees followed him. The bear suit fell away as he ran. He made his way to the river and dove in. The bees had long stopped chasing him. The cool water soothed his stings, but Coyote knew for then and forever that honey was not for him.



Coyote's plan to get the honey fails. Support this statement with **two** details from the passage.

Type your answer in the space provided.

Type your answer in this box.

A two-point response includes the use of two details explaining why Coyote's plan fails. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Coyote gets stung as soon as he tries to put his paw in the tree. His bear suit fell off as he ran from the angry bees.

A one-point response includes one detail explaining why Coyote's plan fails.

Sample one-point response:

Coyote's plan fails because he gets stung.

A response that does not include any details to explain why Coyote's plan fails receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

Coyote's plan fails because he does not get honey.

The Grand Discovery

Imagine you are an ancient hunter and gatherer. You follow animals and move with the seasons to gather berries, roots, and other natural foods. Imagine you are traveling to a new land with your people, seeking a better place to find these foods. As you are walking, you see that there is a gap in the earth in the distance. It is difficult at first to see how wide it is. As you walk closer, you see that it is not a simple gap, but an enormous drop from where you stand. When you peer over the edge into the gorge below, you feel your heart beating quickly and a shiver runs through you. You are looking down into a mile-deep canyon that is 18 miles wide. This hole in the earth is the Grand Canyon, though it will not be called by that name for thousands of years to come. How might you feel stumbling by accident upon this great, deep gap in the earth? What might you think? Would you see a wall that stops you? Or a place for shelter? Perhaps you might go tell others to visit and experience such a breathtaking sight?

People have had all of those reactions over the years as they “discovered” the Grand Canyon. It is impossible to know who the first human to see the great canyon was. In fact, it seems that it was rediscovered several times. Archaeologists think that people have been familiar with the Grand Canyon for at least 10,000 years. The first people seemed to only pass through, as they chased large game throughout the Southwest. Since then, other groups have settled in and around the canyon and then moved away. They left evidence of their presence along the river and in the caves. In about 500 AD, a tribe known as the Puebloan or Anasazi came to the Grand Canyon. They settled the area and introduced agriculture: growing corn, beans, and squash. They built and lived in low apartment-like buildings made of large stones set together like bricks. Perhaps because of lack of rainfall, these people left the Grand Canyon in about 1200 AD.

Several other groups came and went over the next few centuries. By the time the first Europeans arrived in 1540, no one was living permanently in the Grand Canyon. Spanish explorer Garcia Lopez de Cardenas and his men may have felt as if they were discovering something new. However, the group was far more annoyed than pleased to meet with the stunning gorge. Cardenas had split off from a larger party, all searching for the mythical City of Gold. When he arrived at the Grand Canyon, he was frustrated that it would take so much effort to cross. He decided not to try and turned back.

Since then, the area has been settled by many different peoples. In the late 1800s, many people started visiting the Grand Canyon just to see it. They had seen paintings and read reports about it and started to travel great distances to actually stand on its edge. The US government decided to take steps to protect the area. In 1919, it became a national park. People can still have an exciting adventure in the canyon, but they cannot live within it.

Now imagine you are exploring the Grand Canyon today. How would you choose to see it? You might ride a mule or hike down the steep side of the canyon. You might take a guided rafting trip down the river that runs 1000 miles at the floor. Perhaps it would be enough adventure just to stand on the edge and feel as if you have discovered something new and amazing.

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Explain **two** ways the US government protected the Grand Canyon. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

Type your answer in this box.

A two-point response includes an explanation of two ways the government protected the Grand Canyon. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

The US government protected the Grand Canyon by making it a national park in 1919. By not letting people live in the Grand Canyon, they helped preserve the Grand Canyon's natural beauty.

A one-point response includes an explanation of only one way the government protected the Grand Canyon.

Sample one-point response:

The government made the Grand Canyon a national park to protect it.

A response that does not explain how the US government protected the Grand Canyon receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

People can visit the Grand Canyon and ride a mule or hike there.



Archaeologists have many different opinions about how the Grand Canyon was discovered.

Explain what archaeologists think about how the Grand Canyon was discovered. Use at least **two** details from the passage to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

Type your answer in this box.

A two-point response includes two correct details explaining what archaeologists think about the discovery of the Grand Canyon. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Archaeologists think that people have known about the Grand Canyon for the last 10,000 years. Different people came through the canyon at various times. Some actually built houses and tended farms. Others just passed through while hunting. No one really knows who first “discovered” the canyon.

A one-point response includes only one correct detail explaining what archaeologists think about how the Grand Canyon was discovered.

Sample one-point response:

Archaeologists think the Grand Canyon may have been first discovered by people who were hunting.

A response that does not provide a correct detail explaining what archaeologists think about how the Grand Canyon was discovered receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

Some tourists feel as if they are the ones who discovered the Grand Canyon.



You are writing a school report about how food ingredients are used in the same way in different countries. Read the paragraphs from two different sources and the directions that follow.

Source 1

The art of cooking Italian food is passed down through families. Each recipe is one of a kind, even though different families use the same ingredients. One of the most common sauces in Italian cooking is marinara sauce. Marinara sauces are made from tomatoes and olive oil. The mixture does not have much taste to it. Spices and vegetables give the sauce its flavor. Garlic, basil, and oregano are important ingredients when making marinara sauce. They provide the base flavor. It is the other ingredients that really make the sauce special! Onions and peppers make the sauce spicy instead of sweet. Adding meat like chicken or sausage will also affect the flavor. However, the biggest difference comes with how long the sauce simmers on the stove. The longer it cooks, the more flavorful it will be. Ingredients and time are the secrets to Italian sauces.

Source 2

One of the best things about cooking Chinese food is the variety. There are so many different options that it is easy to create a delicious meal in no time! A simple meal is Szechuan (pronounced sesh-wan) beef. The most important part of making Szechuan beef is getting the sauce just right. Szechuan sauce starts with a paste made out of chili peppers, garlic, and vinegar. This is what makes the sauce spicy. The more peppers in the paste, the spicier it will be. The paste is then mixed with soy sauce and olive oil. The mixture needs to cook on the stove so that the ingredients can blend together. Next, the beef is grilled on skewers. When it is done, the beef is stirred into the sauce. Serve the beef and sauce mixture on top of white rice. In less than a half an hour, you have a great Chinese meal.

Give **two** details, one from each source, which would be useful in your report.

Type your answer in the space provided.

Type your answer in this box.

A two-point response includes two correct details, one from each source, about how food ingredients are used in the same way in different countries. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

In different countries, sauces are used to add flavor. Meat and spices can be added to sauce to add flavor.

A one-point response includes only one correct detail from a source about how food ingredients are used in the same way in different countries.

Sample one-point response:

Even in different countries, cooks often put meat into sauces.

A response that does not include any details about how food ingredients are used in the same way in different countries receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

Cooking requires the use of ingredients.