



EQAO Grade 6 Reading Practice — Answer Key

Ontario Junior Division — Comprehension, Analysis & Inference

Passage 1: The Great Lakes

Read the passage, then answer the questions.

The Great Lakes — Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario — form the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth. Together, they hold about 21% of the world's surface fresh water. More than 30 million people in Canada and the United States rely on the Great Lakes for drinking water, transportation, and recreation. However, the lakes face serious challenges. Pollution from factories, agricultural runoff, and invasive species like zebra mussels threaten the ecosystem. Scientists and governments on both sides of the border are working together to protect this vital resource for future generations.

1. What percentage of the world's surface fresh water is in the Great Lakes?

- A) 10%
- B) 15%
- C) 21% [CORRECT]**
- D) 30%

2. Which is NOT listed as a threat to the Great Lakes?

- A) Pollution from factories
- B) Agricultural runoff
- C) Climate change [CORRECT]**
- D) Invasive species

3. What does the word "vital" mean in the last sentence?

- A) Large
- B) Extremely important [CORRECT]**
- C) Clean
- D) Nearby

4. The passage says more than 30 million people rely on the Great Lakes. What inference can you make about what would happen if the lakes became too polluted to use?

Answer: If the Great Lakes became too polluted, it would be a crisis for over 30 million people who depend on them. People would lose their source of drinking water, transportation routes would be affected, and recreation and tourism would suffer. This is likely why scientists and governments are working hard to protect the lakes.

5. Identify two ways the author shows that the Great Lakes are important. Use details from the text.

Answer: 1) The author says the Great Lakes hold about 21% of the world's surface fresh water, making them the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth. 2) The author states that more than 30 million people depend on them for drinking water, transportation, and recreation. These details show the lakes are important both globally and to the people who live nearby.



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Passage 2: The Invention of Insulin

Read the passage, then answer the questions.

In 1921, Canadian scientist Frederick Banting and his assistant Charles Best made one of the most important medical discoveries in history. Working at the University of Toronto, they discovered that a substance from the pancreas — which they called insulin — could lower blood sugar levels. At the time, diabetes was a fatal disease. Their first human patient, 14-year-old Leonard Thompson, was near death when he received insulin injections in January 1922. His condition improved dramatically. Banting and his colleague J.J.R. Macleod won the Nobel Prize in 1923. Rather than patenting insulin for profit, Banting sold the patent to the University of Toronto for just one dollar, believing that a life-saving medicine should be available to everyone.

6. Where did Banting and Best make their discovery?

- A) McGill University
- B) University of British Columbia
- C) University of Toronto [CORRECT]**
- D) Queen's University

7. Why was the discovery of insulin so important?

- A) It cured the common cold
- B) Diabetes was fatal before insulin [CORRECT]**
- C) It was the first Nobel Prize
- D) It made Banting wealthy

8. The passage says Banting sold the patent for one dollar. What does this tell you about his character?

- A) He was bad at business
- B) He believed money was not important
- C) He wanted everyone to have access to the medicine [CORRECT]**
- D) He did not think insulin would be successful

9. How old was Leonard Thompson when he received insulin? What can you infer about why the author included this detail?

Answer: Leonard Thompson was 14 years old. The author included his young age to show how devastating diabetes was — even children were dying from it. It makes the discovery of insulin seem even more urgent and important, and helps readers connect emotionally with the story.



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