

Sample Pages from



Created *by* Teachers *for* Teachers and Students

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To Create a World ⁱⁿ which
Children Love to Learn!

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Welcome to <i>Kids Learn!</i>	4
Top 10 Things Your Sixth Grader Will Need to Know	5
Things to Do at Home	6
Things to Do in the Community	8
Suggested Vacation Reading	10
Vacation Reading Log	11
Websites and Apps for Parents and Kids	12

Weekly Activities for Students

Week 1	14
Week 2	25
Week 3	36
Week 4	47
Week 5	58
Week 6	69

Preparing Your Child for Assessments

Language Arts Assessment Practice	81
Mathematics Assessment Practice	89

Appendices

Completion Certificate	97
Answer Key	99
Writing Paper	105
Parent Survey	111

Welcome to Kids Learn!



Dear Family,

Welcome to *Kids Learn! Getting Ready for 6th Grade*. Sixth grade will be an exciting year, with plenty of new educational opportunities. For example, your child will learn about figurative language, algebraic expressions, and ratios! Interesting new topics in science and social studies will keep students engaged in lessons at school as well.

Kids Learn! was designed to help solidify the concepts your child learned in fifth grade and help your child prepare for the year ahead. The activities are based on the Common Core State Standards and provide practice with essential skills for the grade level. Keeping the skills your child learned in fifth grade sharp while on break from school will help his or her sixth grade year get off to a great start. There is also a section at the end of the book that provides practice for standardized testing.

Keep these tips in mind as you work with your child through the *Kids Learn!* book:

- Set aside a **specific time each day** to work on the activities.
- **Complete one language arts and one mathematics page** each time your child works in the book rather than an entire week's worth of activity pages at one time.
- Keep all **practice sessions with your child positive and constructive**. If the mood becomes tense or if either of you gets frustrated, set the book aside and find another time for your student to practice.
- **Help your child with instructions**, if necessary. If your child is having difficulty understanding what to do, work through some of the problems together.
- Encourage your child to do his or her best work and **compliment the effort that goes into learning**. Celebrate the completion of all the activities by filling in the certificate at the end of the book and displaying it in a special place.

Enjoy the time learning with your child during his or her vacation from school. Sixth grade will be here before you know it!

Things to Do at Home

To Develop Healthy Habits

- Combine conversation with a physical activity such as tossing a ball, going for a run, or playing tennis. Both conversation and physical activity are healthy and beneficial for your child.
- Designate a quiet space as a “homework zone” in your home. Turn off distracting electronics and keep interruptions to a minimum to ensure a good work environment for your child.
- Enforce a set bedtime during the week and do not vary the hours by much on the weekends. Use an alarm clock to make sure your child has enough time to eat breakfast before leaving the house.



To Practice Reading

- Have your child locate an item in the house with a safety label or caution warning. Ask him or her to read the label carefully and determine whether your family is using the item safely.
- Ask your child to read an insurance policy, lease, or terms for a credit card. Help him or her verbally summarize the information and find answers to any questions he or she might have.
- Subscribe to a periodical targeted specifically to your child’s age group, such as *Time for Kids* (news and current events) or *Cobblestone* (history, fiction, science, and culture).



Things to Do in the Community (cont.)

To Practice Writing

- Have your child write a letter to the editor of a local publication about an issue of community interest or concern.
- Ask your child which careers he or she might be interested in. Then, have him or her compare two of the career choices by researching and writing about the jobs' typical salary ranges, the amount of education or training needed, and the physical and mental demands of the jobs.
- Have your child write and illustrate a booklet of recycling tips for home, business, and school.



To Practice Math

- Have your child estimate the distances from your home to various destinations in the community. Show him or her how to use the odometer in the car to check the accuracy of the estimates.
- Give your child practice with calculating tips when you eat out at a restaurant. Provide him or her with varying meal totals and ask your child to adjust the tip amount accordingly.
- Challenge your child to a game of "How Long Ago?" Give your child a historical event (e.g., the signing of the Declaration of Independence) and ask him or her to calculate how long ago this event occurred by subtracting the historical date from the current date.



This Needs a Comma, Right?

Week
2

Directions: Rewrite each sentence with commas in the correct places.



Commas are used to set certain words apart in sentences:

1. The words *yes* and *no*

Example: Yes, I plan to go to the party.

2. A tag question

Example: You read the book, didn't you?

3. To indicate directly addressing someone

Example: Will you help me, Ryanne?

1. Cecelia have you seen any movies lately?

2. No I'd rather not go to the beach today.

3. James has visited China Australia and Namibia correct?

4. That was very kind of you Nathan.

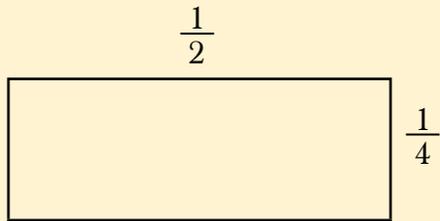
5. Marina and I need to finish our research before going to the mall don't we?

6. Yes I will attend Parris Middle School in the fall.

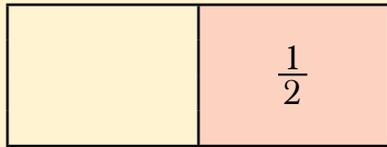
7. Do you know which classes you will have next year Sari?

Fractional Areas

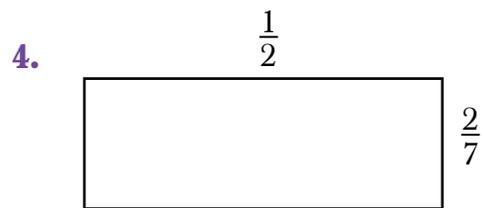
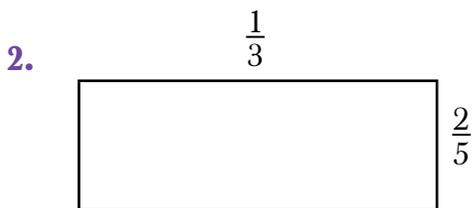
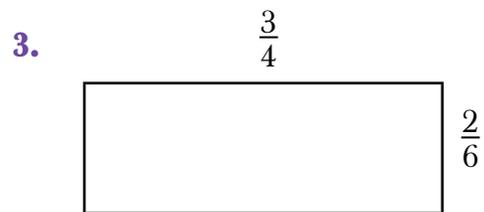
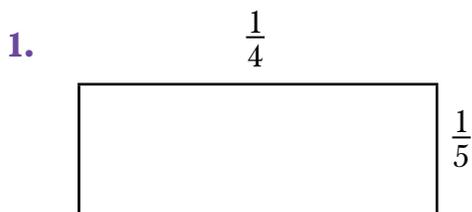
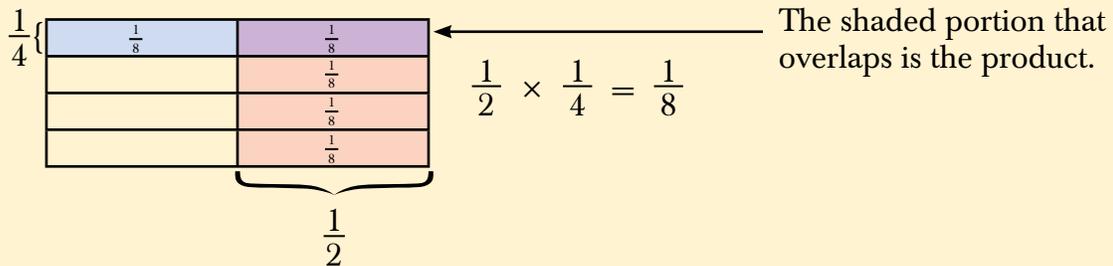
Directions: Use the area model to find the product of the fractions.



First, divide the rectangle in half, and shade $\frac{1}{2}$:



Then, divide the rectangle in fourths, and shade $\frac{1}{4}$:



Preparing Your Child for Assessments

Background for Parents

Many states have recently adopted the Common Core State Standards, a set of national educational standards in language arts and mathematics. These standards provide clear goals for learning in grades K–12 so that all students can gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful. For more information on the Common Core State Standards, please visit www.corestandards.org.

Assessments that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards will replace other state end-of-year tests. These assessments include a variety of types of items. Some items ask students to select the correct option or options from a list. Other items ask students to give a written or numerical response. Students will also complete tasks that gauge their ability to bring together knowledge and skills across many standards.

Preparation Pages

The test preparation items on pages 81–95 provide sample test questions and tasks similar to those that may be found on next-generation assessments. Use the following tips to work through the assessment practice pages with your child:

- Work with your child as he or she completes the practice items so that you can address any questions as they arise.
- Help your child understand how to go about selecting answers or working through tasks.
- Use the Answer Key to check the answers together, and discuss any incorrect responses.
- Keep in mind that for the purposes of this practice, getting the correct answer is not as important as helping your child become comfortable with the test-taking format and process.

Language Arts Assessment Practice

Directions: Read the passage, then answer the questions.

Buzz Off

By Curtis Slepian

The night is peaceful, warm, and calm,
as I sleep, uncovered, head against palm.

And then, near my ear a mosquito flies,
not long after I've closed my eyes.

I hear a buzz, a terrible drone;
it sounds worse than a ringing phone.

I jump up and turn on the light,
grab a magazine, ready to fight.

My heart sinks. This will be a long night,
as I notice the mosquito has flown out of
sight.

Back in bed, my foot itches badly.
A red bump's on my toe; I scratch it madly.

I pull feet and hands in under the covers,
but I know that above me, the creature
hovers.

There's one part of me still exposed for
biting;
so I tuck in my head like a turtle in hiding.

Inside these covers, I've nearly expired.
This cocoon the next day hatches a human,
most tired.

But, curious now why a mosquito bites,
I sleepily search for good info sites.

To my surprise, it's a survival trait.
Mosquitoes suck blood to propagate.

In order for their eggs to hatch,
Warm-blooded animals mosquitoes must
catch.

So my warm blood has played a role
To help the mosquito population grow.

If I had my choice, I wouldn't be found,
But mosquitoes are thankful we're all
around!

1. Underline the stanza or stanzas above that support the idea that the speaker in the poem was bitten.

Language Arts Assessment Practice (cont.)

2. Read the sentence and answer the question that follows.

This cocoon the next day hatches a human, most tired.

What does This cocoon the next day hatches mean as used in the text?

3. Choose the sentence that best describes the main idea of the poem.

- A You can't sleep when there are mosquitoes flying around.
- B Mosquito bites are red and itch.
- C Mosquitoes are hard to catch at night when it is dark.
- D Mosquitoes are annoying, but they depend on warm blood for survival.