

STAAR Spring 2026 Middle School Science Answer Key

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
1	Multiple Choice	8.13(C)	1	C	4	Readiness
2	Multiple Choice	8.7(B)	1	B	2	Readiness
3	Multi Part	7.10(A)	2	C, D	3	Supporting
4	Multiple Choice	7.13(D)	1	B	4	Supporting
5	Multiple Choice	8.7(A)	1	A	2	Readiness
6	Multiple Choice	8.8(A)	1	B	2	Supporting
7	Multiple Choice	7.10(B)	1	D	3	Readiness
8	Multiple Choice	8.13(A)	1	C	4	Readiness
9	Multiple Choice	8.9(A)	1	A	3	Readiness
10	Multiple Choice	7.7(A)	1	C	2	Supporting
11	Multiple Choice	8.12(B)	1	A	4	Readiness
12	Multiple Choice	8.10(A)	1	B	3	Readiness
13	Short Constructed Response	8.7(A)	2	See Appendix 1.1	2	Readiness
14	Multiple Choice	8.10(B)	1	B	3	Supporting
15	Inline Choice	7.6(B)	2	5, 5 See Appendix 1.2	1	Readiness
16	Multi Part	7.6(C)	2	D, C	1	Supporting
17	Multiple Choice	8.6(E)	1	B	1	Readiness
18	Multiple Choice	8.7(B)	1	D	2	Readiness
19	Multiple Choice	8.10(C)	1	A	3	Supporting
20	Text Entry	7.6(B)	1	3	1	Readiness
21	Multiple Choice	7.10(B)	1	D	3	Readiness
22	Multiple Choice	8.13(B)	1	D	4	Supporting
23	Drag and Drop	8.10(A)	1	See Appendix 1.3	3	Readiness
24	Short Constructed Response	8.13(C)	2	See Appendix 1.4	4	Readiness
25	Multiple Choice	8.12(C)	1	C	4	Supporting

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
26	Multiple Choice	8.6(E)	1	B	1	Readiness
27	Multiple Choice	8.9(A)	1	A	3	Readiness
28	Multiple Choice	7.8(C)	1	B	2	Supporting
29	Multiple Choice	8.12(B)	1	B	4	Readiness
30	Multiple Choice	8.13(A)	1	A	4	Readiness

**STAAR Spring 2026 Middle School Science
Appendix**

1.1

Two forces are acting on a 10-kilogram (kg) :

- Force 1 = 10 newtons (N) to the east
- Force 2 = 8 newtons (N) to the west

What is the net force (N) on the cart, **AND** what is the acceleration (m/s^2) of the cart?

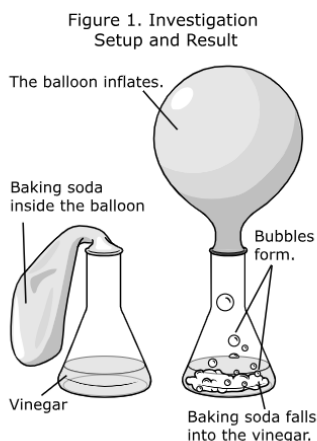
Read the question carefully. Then enter your answers in the box provided. Be sure to include appropriate units.

The student states that the net force is 2 N to the east, AND the acceleration is 0.2 m/s^2 .

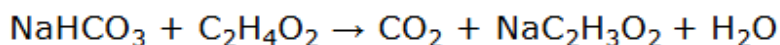
1.2

Read the information. Then answer the following questions.

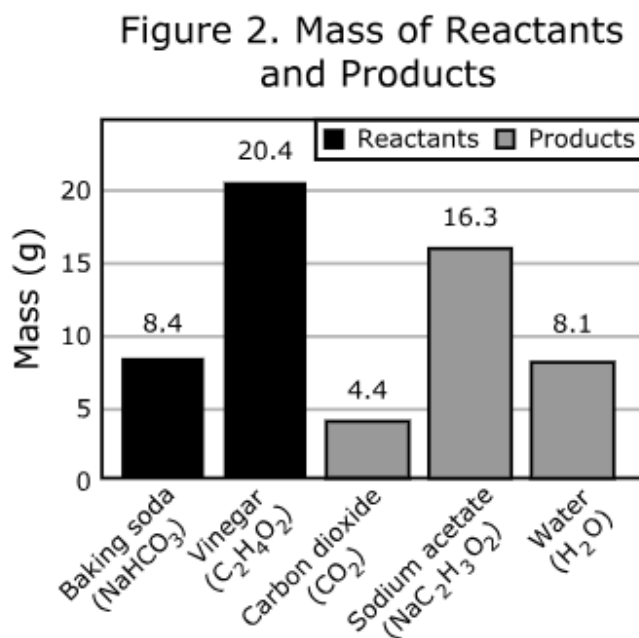
For an investigation, a student places baking soda into an uninflated balloon and pours vinegar into a flask. The student carefully stretches the neck of the balloon over the opening of the flask. The student then lifts the body of the balloon so that the baking soda falls into the flask. The mixture in the flask starts to bubble, and the balloon gets larger. The student's setup is shown.



The equation represents the chemical reaction that occurred during the investigation.



The student graphs the mass of each reactant and each product from the reaction in the investigation. The graph is shown.



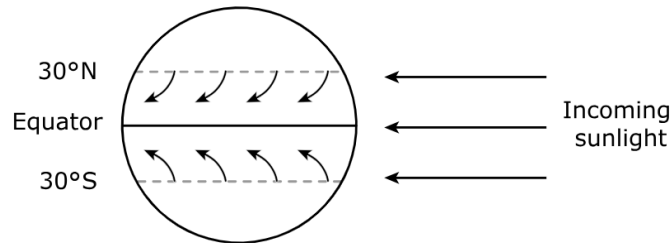
In the chemical formulas that model the reaction, how many hydrogen atoms are represented in the reactants, and how many oxygen atoms are represented in the products?

Choose the correct answer from each drop-down box to complete the sentence.

There are 5 hydrogen atoms in the reactants and 5 oxygen atoms in the products.

1.3

Sailors have historically relied on trade winds because they blow in the same direction all year long. The arrows in the diagram show the location and direction of the trade winds.



How does the angle of sunlight on Earth create these winds?

Move the correct answer to each box. Not all answers can be moved to all boxes.

the equator 30°N and 30°S warmer cooler

There is more direct sunlight at the equator than at 30°N and 30°S. The cooler air at 30°N and 30°S moves toward the warmer air near the equator.

1.4

An area near a beach is mostly covered with tan-colored sand and has some scattered green plants. The table shows data collected on four female mice that lived in the area.

	Mouse 1	Mouse 2	Mouse 3	Mouse 4
Fur Color	Black	Tan	Tan and black	White
Age at Time of Death (months)	2	8	4	2
Number of Offspring in First Litter	0	11	3	0
Average Running Speed (m/min)	8	6	7	5

Based on the data provided, mice that have which fur color are most fit for reproductive success, **AND** why are they the most fit?

Think about the information carefully. Then enter your response in the box provided.

The student states that mice that are tan in color are most fit for their environment.

AND

Tan mice can blend in with their surroundings.