

STUDENT NAME _____



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

English I

STAAR Alternate 2

Administered Spring 2025

RELEASED

ENGLISH I

The Puppy Bowl



REUTERS/Alamy Stock Photo

Each year adorable puppies participate in the Puppy Bowl, a television show created to raise awareness about adopting pets from shelters and rescuing abandoned animals.



Linda Davidson/The Washington Post via Getty Images

Puppies are selected from animal shelters or rescue centers to compete in the Puppy Bowl, a television show that airs on the same day as the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl is a football game played on a field in a stadium with a very large crowd of people watching. The Puppy Bowl, however, is played inside a miniature "stadium" without an audience.

2b



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Mark Von Holden/AP Images for Discovery Communications



Alison Yin/ AP Images for Discovery Communications

The first Puppy Bowl was shown in February 2005 on the same day as Super Bowl 39. In 2015 the production team began to divide the puppies into Team Ruff and Team Fluff. The puppies wear different-colored

bandannas around their necks so that the fans can find and watch their favorite puppy. At the beginning of the Puppy Bowl, a variety of football-shaped chew toys are put inside the stadium. When a puppy drags one of the toys into the end zone, it is called a puppy touchdown. Points are put on a scoreboard by a hamster running on a wheel.

3a



AP Photo/Stephen J. Boitano

3a

Even though they are shown on the same day, the Puppy Bowl is filmed several months before the Super Bowl. It takes two full days to film what becomes a two-hour television show on Animal Planet. Many camera operators shoot the action on the "field" at the same time to get as much film of each puppy as possible. To get close-up shots of the puppies, the production team puts a camera under a glass-bottom water bowl and hides other cameras in the chew toys. The toys are smeared with peanut butter to attract the puppies to them.



AP Photo/Stephen J. Boitano

The first Puppy Bowl was shown in February 2005 on the same day as Super Bowl 39.

Points are put on a scoreboard by a hamster running on a wheel.

It takes two full days to film what becomes a two-hour television show on Animal Planet.



Mark Von Holden/AP Images for Discovery Communications

The goal of the Puppy Bowl production team is to find a forever home for each of the puppies the team has selected from animal shelters and centers across the United States. In 2022 there were

more than 100 dogs from 67 shelters in 33 states selected for the show. During the two days of filming, as many different puppies as possible are rotated off and on the "field" to give each puppy as much camera time as possible. A veterinarian is always on the set during the filming to make sure that the puppies are safe and that any medical care they might need is provided. There is also a representative from each of the shelters to be sure that the puppies get a break from the lights, camera, and action every 30 minutes.



The Puppy Bowl has a 100% success rate of finding a new home for each of the puppies, often before the show airs on television. People can go to the Discovery Channel website to see photos and read about each

of the puppies before Super Bowl Sunday. By the time the show is on television, most of the puppies have already been adopted. Since the first Puppy Bowl in 2005, more than 500 dogs have found their forever homes.

More than 100 puppies are selected to participate in the Puppy Bowl.

People can go to the Discovery Channel website to see and learn about the puppies.

A veterinarian is on the set to be sure the puppies are well cared for.

Penguins are flightless birds.



Penguins are flightless birds that have flippers instead of wings.



© iStock.com/Vladsilver

On land, penguins are often seen in a huddle. Standing together in a large group helps them protect themselves from predators. When it is extremely cold, huddling helps them stay warm. When the huddle is moving together, it is called a waddle. A group of penguins in the water is called a raft.

When the huddle is moving together, it is called a waddle, or in the water, it is called a raft.

When the huddle is moving together, it is called a waddle, but in the water, it is called a raft.

The female emperor penguin returns to the ocean to hunt for food . The male emperor penguin sits on the nest for over two months in freezing weather waiting for the egg to hatch. The female does not return to the nest until after the egg hatches.



after she lays her egg

after she laying her egg

after she layed her egg



© iStock.com/Mario_Hoppmann

Penguins have black bodies and white bellies. The black on their backs helps them blend in with the darkness of the ocean. It protects them from predators. Penguins' white bellies help them blend in with the bright surface of the water. Protect them from predators looking up from below.

They protect penguins from predators looking up from below.

Protecting penguins from predators looking up from below.

They protect penguins from predators look up from below.

Most of the cotton in Texas is grown in the Lubbock area.



© Megan Betteridge/Shutterstock.com

Most of the cotton in Texas is grown in the Lubbock area.



Cotton is planted for its fiber, but the whole plant is used. More cotton is grown in Texas than in any other state. The seeds are fed to animals and used to make cottonseed oil. The plant stalks are plowed back into the soil after the cotton fiber is harvested.

Cotton is planted for its fiber, but the whole plant is used.

More cotton is grown in Texas than in any other state.



© iStock.com/sihaskprachum



© iStock.com/dszc

Changing cotton fiber to cotton cloth begins by separating the fiber from the seeds. This took a very long time when it was done by hand. after Eli Whitney invented a machine to separate the fiber from the seeds, the process became much faster.

Besides,

However,

Meanwhile,



The cotton fiber is sent from Eli Whitney's machine, the cotton gin, to a spinning mill. The mill spins the long, hairlike cotton fiber into a white thread. Then a loom weaves the white thread into a cotton fabric. This fabric is then used to make many things people need every day, including denim jeans, T-shirts, diapers, and bedsheets.

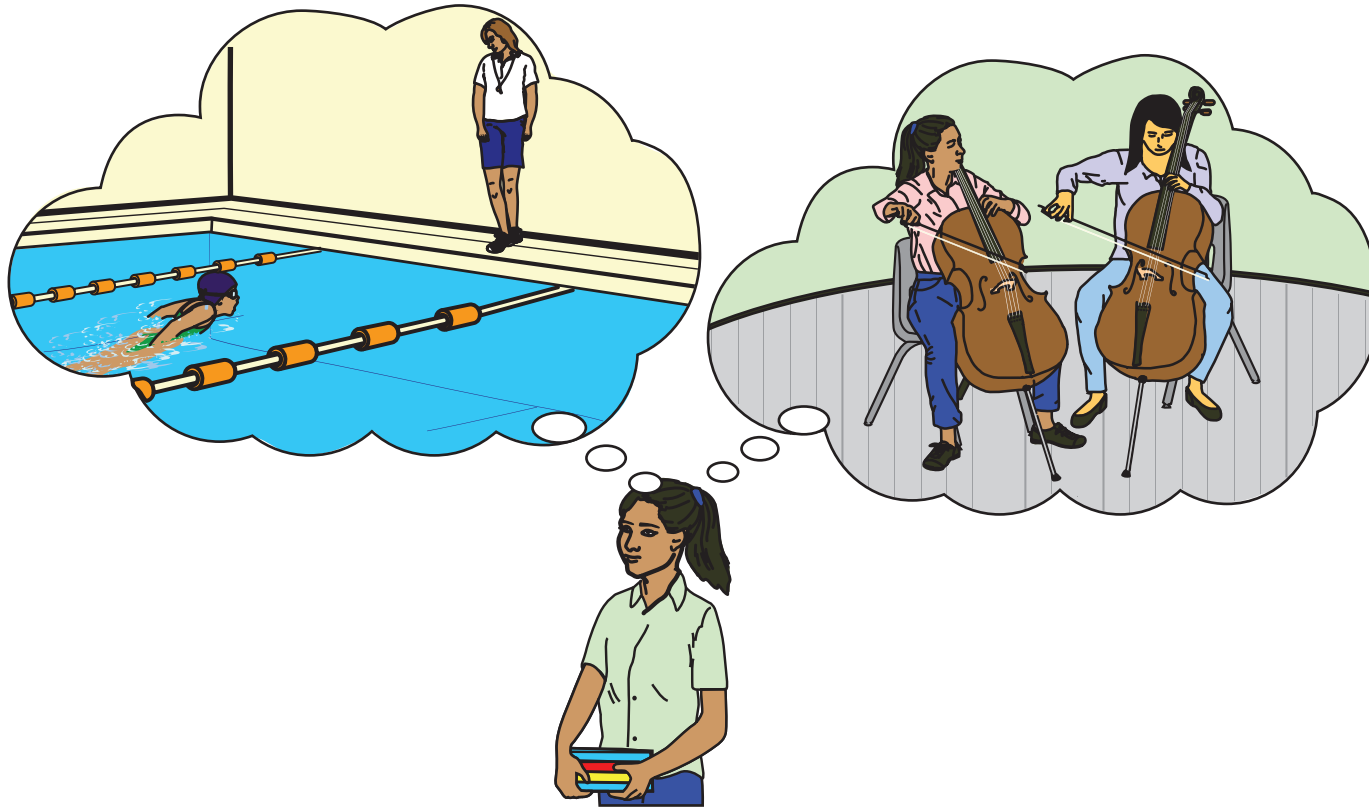


Even the one-dollar bill is made from cotton!

Cotton is also grown in California and Oklahoma.

Cotton is stronger when it is wet than when it is dry!

Tough Decisions



Olivia is a high school student thinking about how much she likes swimming on the swim team and playing the cello with the orchestra.



Coach Hernandez stops Olivia after swim team practice. "Olivia, you have improved so much. I think you have a real chance of being selected for the summer swim program. You would have to practice twice every day during the summer, but it could lead to a college scholarship. Here's an application. I'll need you to fill it out and get it back to me by the end of next week."

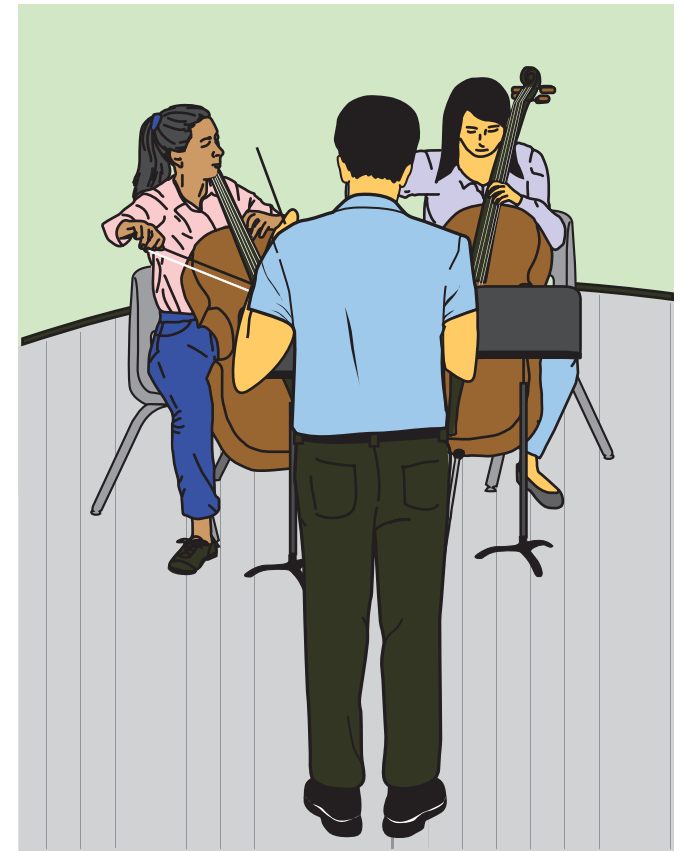
"Thanks, Coach! I would love to be in the summer swim program!" Olivia says.

a form asking for information

to layer one thing on top of another

The next day at school, Olivia and her friend Lucy are in orchestra practice when Mr. Nguyen, the orchestra teacher, calls the two girls up to his desk.

"You two are very talented musicians and should apply for the summer music institute. It's a monthlong program that will be a fun way to improve your musical skills together," Mr. Nguyen says.



"Oh no!" Olivia says, turning to Lucy. "I want to go to the summer music institute with you, but I also really want to get better at swimming. I won't be able to do both at the same time!"

"What are you going to do?" asks Lucy.

"I don't know," answers Olivia. "It's not fair that I can't do both."

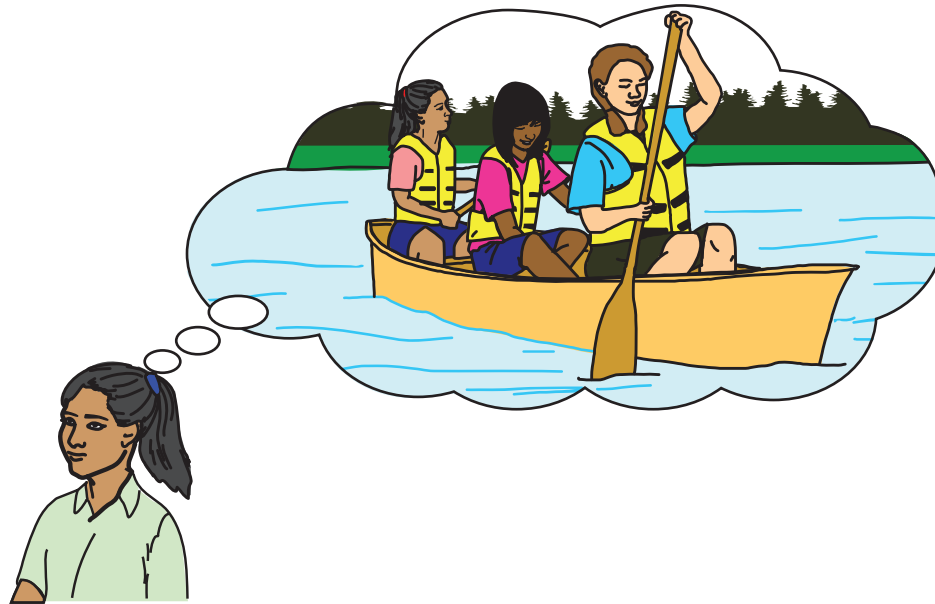
"It sounds like you have a tough decision to make," says Mr. Nguyen. "Sometimes you must decide what is more important to you."



"You two are very talented musicians and should apply for the summer music institute."

"I want to go to the summer music institute with you, but I also really want to get better at swimming."

"Sometimes you must decide what is more important to you."



Olivia tries not to think about deciding between swimming and playing the cello. She tries to think about the canoe trip and hike she has planned with her friends for the weekend. But then Olivia realizes that it might be one of her last chances to have a fun weekend with her friends. Olivia is going to be very busy once school is out, either at the swimming pool every day or playing the cello.

When Olivia gets to school early Monday morning for swim practice, the smell of the water in the pool reminds her that she is happy to be back at the pool. Olivia can hardly wait to jump into the cool water. She suddenly knows how she wants to spend her summer.

During orchestra practice that afternoon, Olivia tells Lucy her decision.

"You don't have to go to the summer music institute to play music with me," says Lucy. "I can come over to your house in the evenings, and we can play music then."

"I like your idea," says Olivia. "We may not spend the whole day playing the cello together, but we can still have some time to practice and play together."

Olivia realizes that the canoe trip and hike is one of her last chances to be with her friends.

Olivia smells the water and is reminded of how happy she is to be at the swimming pool.

Olivia likes Lucy's idea to play the cello together in the evenings during the summer.

Texas Wind Farms



© Sarah Fields Photography/Shutterstock.com

Most of the renewable electricity in Texas comes from huge, flat areas of land that have been made into wind farms.



Thousands of huge wind turbines spin to create electricity on more than 100 wind farms in Texas every day. The Roscoe Wind Farm is the largest. It has 627 wind turbines that generate electricity for more than 250,000 homes.

spin

create

Wind turbines are much larger than the windmills seen in fields on a traditional farm. The blades on a wind turbine are made of a white plastic material and look like the propellers on an airplane. The blades move to face the direction of the wind. The blade speed is set by the force of the wind. A rod attached to the blades turns a motor that changes the power of the wind into electricity. Then the electricity travels hundreds of miles through transmission lines. Homes in large cities, including Houston, Austin, and Dallas, use most of the electricity from the wind farms.



The blade speed is set by the force of the wind.

Then the electricity travels hundreds of miles through transmission lines.

Homes in large cities, including Houston, Austin, and Dallas, use most of the electricity from the wind farms.



© Christopher Boswell/Shutterstock.com

Wind farms have been good for the state of Texas. For years, droughts and poor crops had forced many cotton farmers to lose their land. But now, farmers who were once struggling financially have dozens of wind turbines on their land. Energy companies pay these farmers as much as \$10,000 a year for each wind turbine. Money from the energy companies has made some farmers wealthy and brought some small towns back to life.

In addition to saving the land of many Texas farmers, wind farms have reduced the cost of electricity and lowered utility bills for people all over the state. The wind farm industry has also created many new jobs. People who were without jobs are now being trained for jobs such as wind turbine technicians. And because the wind energy does not create any pollution, the air in Texas is probably cleaner.

Today, wind power generates electricity in several states. Thirty years ago, no one would have predicted that Texas would become the country's leader in wind power, producing more electricity from wind than Iowa, California, and Oklahoma combined.

Energy companies will pay farmers as much as \$10,000 a year for each wind turbine they have on their farm.

Wind farms in Texas produce more electricity than the wind farms in Iowa, Oklahoma, and California combined.

Wind farms have helped farmers financially, saved small towns, and reduced the cost of electricity for many people in Texas.



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