

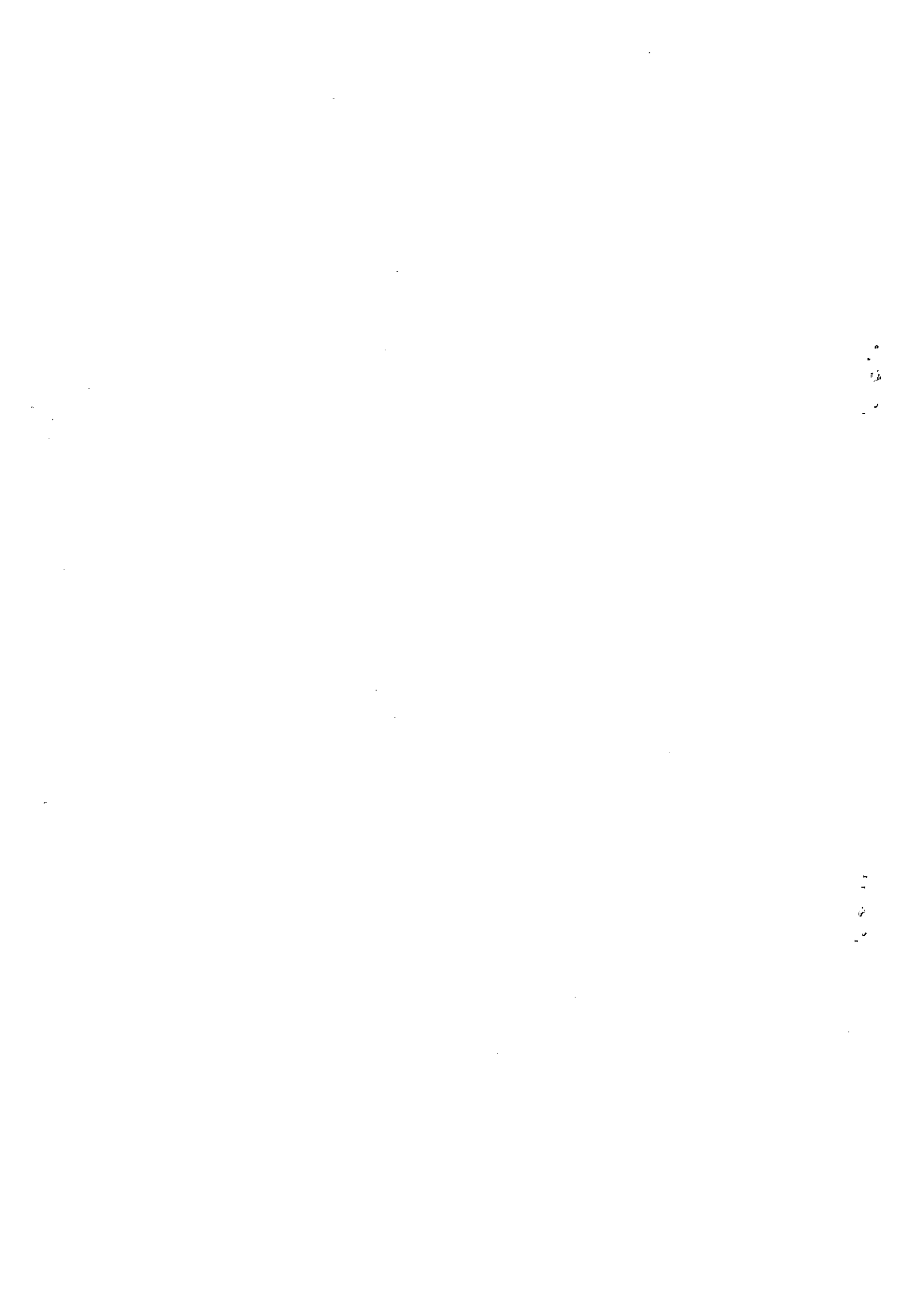
Darland High School

National Literacy  
Tests

Year 9



Home Learning  
Papers



# National Literacy Tests

The National Literacy Tests are used by the school and the Welsh Assembly Government to track your child's progress across Key Stage 3.

It is essential that young people are confident readers and are encouraged to read regularly both at home and in school, as this is the foundation upon which all learning is built. For this reason the tests focus on a pupil's ability to read and understand the material with which they are presented.

We, at Darland, have taken the liberty to offer you these past papers to enable you to support the school in familiarising your child with the requirements of the test.

We have also noted below some of the guidance notes offered to schools about the administering of the tests.

- Pupils are allowed up to an hour to complete two test papers.
- Pupils are not allowed to have assistance to read the passages, therefore, it is really important that pupils are regular and confident readers.
- Pupils must read both the passages and questions carefully and thoroughly.

We hope you find this material useful.

## Home Truths?

Well-meaning but misinformed people think animals in the wild are “happy” because they are “free”. They imagine this wild animal roaming about the savannah on digestive walks after eating a prey that accepted its lot piously. They imagine this animal overseeing its offspring proudly and tenderly, the whole family watching the setting of the sun from the limbs of trees with sighs of pleasure. Then it is captured by wicked men and thrown into tiny jails. Its “happiness” is dashed. It yearns mightily for “freedom” and does all it can to escape. Being denied its “freedom” for too long, the animal becomes a shadow of itself, its spirit broken. So some people imagine.

That is not the way it is.

Animals are territorial. That is the key to their minds. Only a familiar territory will allow them to fulfil the two relentless imperatives of the wild: the avoidance of enemies and the getting of food and water. A biologically sound zoo enclosure – whether cage, pit, moated island, aviary or aquarium – is just another territory, peculiar only in its size and in its proximity to human territory. In a zoo, we do for animals what we have done for ourselves with houses: we bring together in a small space what in the wild is spread out. Now the river flows through taps at hand’s reach and we can wash next to where we sleep, we can eat where we have cooked, and we can surround the whole with a protective wall and keep it clean and warm. A house is a compressed territory where our basic needs can be fulfilled close by and safely. A sound zoo enclosure is the equivalent for an animal. It finds within it all the places it needs – a lookout, a place for resting, for eating and drinking, for bathing, for grooming etc. – and finds that there is no need to go hunting, food appearing six days a week.

One might even argue that if an animal could choose with intelligence, it would opt for living in a zoo. Think about it yourself. Would you rather be put up at The Ritz\* with free room service and unlimited access to a doctor or be homeless without a soul to care for you?

\* a luxury hotel

1 Which of the following best describes this text?

Tick **one**.

- fictional narrative  factual information   
opinion and argument  instructions and advice

1  
1m

2 What message is conveyed in this text?

Tick **one**.

- All animals need to be properly cared for.  Animals are more comfortable in the wild.   
Zoos are best.  No-one really knows what is best for animals.

2  
1m

3 In the first paragraph, the narrator describes an imagined wild animal family. Where does the family relax?

Tick **one**.

- at the foot of a tree  on the branches of trees   
on a rock in the sunset  in a shady haven

3  
1m

4 What is the narrator's view of life in a zoo?

Tick **one**.

- It is like being in a tiny jail.  Life is easier than in the wild.   
Animals are happy to be close to humans.  Animals become dispirited.

4  
1m

5 ... animals in the wild are "happy" because they are "free".

What does the narrator think about people who believe this?

Tick **two**.

- that they have a good understanding of animal welfare issues  that they have an idealised view of nature   
that they can see both sides of the argument  that they realise the importance of exercise for wild animals   
that they do not understand the difficulties animals face living in the wild

5  
1m

*please turn over*

6

Look at the text in the box below.

**Underline the phrase** that shows that some animals in the wild **expect** to be eaten by others.

They imagine this wild animal roaming about the savannah on digestive walks after eating a prey that accepted its lot piously. They imagine this animal overseeing its offspring proudly and tenderly, the whole family watching the setting of the sun from the limbs of trees with sighs of pleasure.

6  
1m

7

*That is not the way it is.*

What is the effect of this single sentence paragraph?

Tick **two**.

It highlights that everything that went before it is not true.

It has more impact because it stands on its own.

It is meant to separate the animal perspective from the human one.

It separates the text to show two sides of the argument.

It shows that the narrator is feeling defensive.

It is there to introduce the true facts.

7  
1m

8

What does the narrator say are the main challenges for animals living in the wild?

Tick **two**.

keeping control of their territory

making sure they exercise enough

avoiding captivity

maintaining an adequate diet

protecting themselves from predators

living alongside humans

8  
1m

9

What does the narrator see as the advantages of living in a *compressed territory*?

Tick **two**.

You can do whatever you want.

It is safe.

Everything you need is convenient.

It has proper plumbing.

It is near to friendly neighbours.

There are so many places to explore.

9  
1m

10

Think about the narrator's viewpoint. Put ticks to show whether the narrator would **agree** or **disagree** with the following statements.

	The narrator would	
	agree	disagree
Animals need to have freedom to be happy		
Life in the wild is not always easy		
It is wrong to put animals in zoos		
Animals have everything they need in zoos		
Living in a zoo is like living in a top quality hotel		
Animals in the wild have no one to look after them		

10  
2m

11

... we do for animals what we have done for ourselves ...

What does this tell us about the narrator's assumptions?

Tick **two**.

- He thinks animals have the same values and needs as humans.
- He feels all living creatures deserve to have a roof over their heads.
- He thinks animals really want to live in the wild.
- He feels only humans know the correct way to live.
- He thinks zoos fulfil the same role for animals as houses do for humans.
- He believes that humans are the masters of all animals.

11  
1m

12

Put ticks to show which of the following statements are **fact** and which are **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
Animals in the wild are happy		
People who put animals in cages are wicked		
Animals in zoos want to escape		
Some people believe zoos are bad for animals		
Life in a zoo is easier than in the wild		
Animals in zoos do not need to go hunting for food		

12  
2m

**End of test. Please check your work.**

TOTAL  
9m





"Home Truths?"

Answers

- 1 Which of the following best describes this text?
- Tick one.
- fictional narrative  factual information
- opinion and argument  instructions and advice

**Award 1 mark for:**

- opinion and argument.

(1 mark)

- 2 What message is conveyed in this text?
- Tick one.
- All animals need to be properly cared for.  Animals are more comfortable in the wild.
- Zoos are best.  No-one really knows what is best for animals.

**Award 1 mark for:**

- Zoos are best.

(1 mark)

- 3 In the first paragraph, the narrator describes an imagined wild animal family. Where does the family relax?
- Tick one.
- at the foot of a tree  on the branches of trees
- on a rock in the sunset  in a shady haven

**Award 1 mark for:**

- on the branches of trees

(1 mark)

- 4 What is the narrator's view of life in a zoo?
- Tick one.
- It is like being in a tiny jail.  Life is easier than in the wild.
- Animals are happy to be close to humans.  Animals become dispirited.

**Award 1 mark for:**

- Life is easier than in the wild.

(1 mark)

- 5 ... animals in the wild are "happy" because they are "free".
- What does the narrator think about people who believe this?
- Tick two.
- that they have a good understanding of animal welfare issues  that they have an idealised view of nature
- that they can see both sides of the argument  that they realise the importance of exercise for wild animals
- that they do not understand the difficulties animals face living in the wild

**Award 1 mark for both answers ticked:**

- that they do not understand the difficulties animals face living in the wild
- that they have an idealised view of nature

(1 mark)

- 6 Look at the text in the box below.
- Underline the phrase that shows that some animals in the wild expect to be eaten by others.

They imagine this wild animal roaming about the savannah on digestive walks after eating a prey that accepted its lot piously. They imagine this animal overseeing its offspring proudly and tenderly, the whole family watching the setting of the sun from the limbs of trees with sighs of pleasure.

**Award 1 mark for:**

- (after eating) a prey that accepted its lot (piously).

(1 mark)

- 7 What is the effect of this single sentence paragraph?
- Tick two.
- It highlights that everything that went before it is not true.  It has more impact because it stands on its own.
- It is meant to separate the animal perspective from the human one.  It separates the text to show two sides of the argument.
- It shows that the narrator is feeling defensive.  It is there to introduce the true facts.

**Award 1 mark for both answers ticked:**

- It has more impact because it stands on its own.
- It separates the text to show two sides of the argument.

(1 mark)

- 8 What does the narrator say are the main challenges for animals living in the wild?
- Tick two.
- keeping control of their territory  making sure they exercise enough
- avoiding captivity  maintaining an adequate diet
- protecting themselves from predators  living alongside humans

**Award 1 mark for both answers ticked:**

- protecting themselves from predators
- maintaining an adequate diet

(1 mark)

- 9 What does the narrator see as the advantages of living in a compressed territory?
- Tick two.
- You can do whatever you want.  It is safe.
- Everything you need is convenient.  It has proper plumbing.
- It is near to friendly neighbours.  There are so many places to explore.

**Award 1 mark for both answers ticked:**

- Everything you need is convenient.
- It is safe.

(1 mark)

- 10 Think about the narrator's viewpoint. Put ticks to show whether the narrator would agree or disagree with the following statements.

	The narrator would	
	agree	disagree
Animals need to have freedom to be happy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Life in the wild is not always easy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is wrong to put animals in zoos.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Animals have everything they need in zoos.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living in a zoo is like living in a top quality hotel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals in the wild have no-one to look after them.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Award 2 marks for all six rows completed correctly.**

**Award 1 mark for five rows completed correctly.**

(2 marks)

- 11 ... we do for animals what we have done for ourselves ...
- What does this tell us about the narrator's assumptions?
- Tick two.
- He thinks animals have the same values and needs as humans.  He feels only humans know the correct way to live.
- He feels all living creatures deserve to have a roof over their heads.  He thinks zoos fulfil the same role for animals as houses do for humans.
- He thinks animals really want to live in the wild.  He believes that humans are the masters of all animals.

**Award 1 mark for both answers ticked:**

- He thinks animals have the same values and needs as humans.
- He thinks zoos fulfil the same role for animals as houses do for humans.

(1 mark)

- 12 Put ticks to show which of the following statements are fact and which are opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Animals in the wild are happy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People who put animals in cages are wicked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Animals in zoos want to escape.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Some people believe zoos are bad for animals.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life in a zoo is easier than in the wild.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Animals in zoos do not need to go hunting for food.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Award 2 marks for all six rows completed correctly.**

**Award 1 mark for five rows completed correctly.**

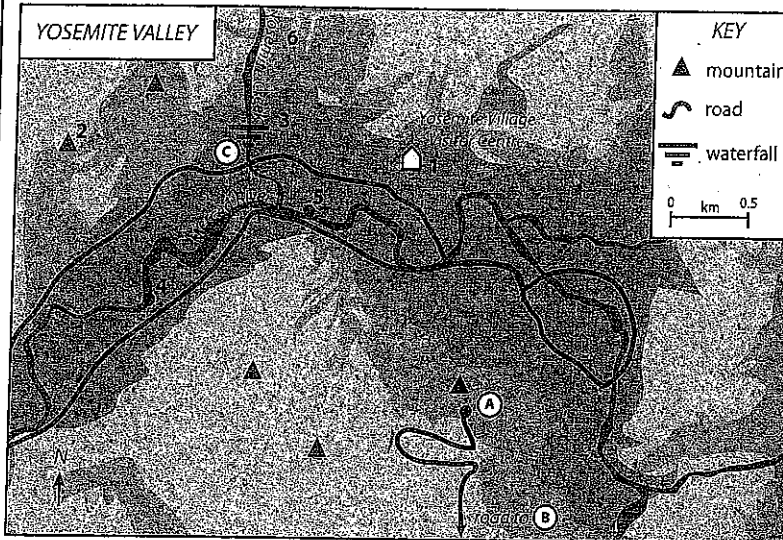
(2 marks)

Yosemite is a National Park that is located in California in the USA. Over 3.7 million people visit each year and explore the seven square miles of Yosemite Valley. Here is an extract from the Yosemite Guidebook.

### Your Full Moon Tour

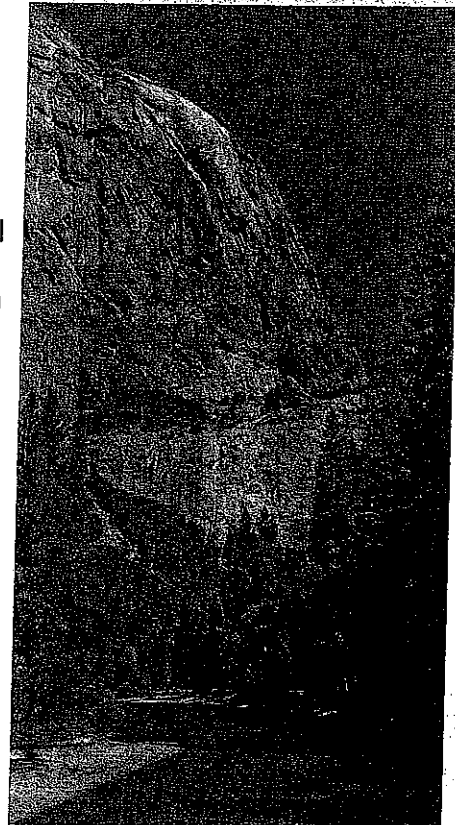
If you are lucky enough to be in the area during full moon, do not miss the chance to see Yosemite Valley in its most beautiful light. Moonbeams wash the cliff faces white, creating a completely otherworldly atmosphere, and it is possible to hike around without need of a torch.

The best place to begin your evening tour, at least in summer, is at **Glacier Point (A)**. You should aim to arrive about half an hour before sunset – or even earlier in summer, when park rangers give special presentations. From this awesome viewpoint you will be able to watch the moon rise through the pink haze that descends over the mountains after sunset, and gradually begin to cast its light into the valley. Maybe you'll want to sit there all night. But there's more to come.



The next move is to drive back down into Yosemite Valley, stopping off at the **Wawona Tunnel (B)** viewpoint on the way. By now the moon should be working its magic on the face of the earth and you'll be able to see the silhouette of the mountains in the distance. Press on towards *Yosemite Village (1)*, stopping off whenever the fancy takes you to marvel at the serene valley views. Some of the best are: *El Capitan (2)*, *Yosemite Falls (3)* from *Swinging Bridge (4)* (if the water is calm enough you may be able to see the falls reflected in the river) and from *Sentinel Bridge (5)*.

If you're here from April to June, you stand a good chance of witnessing a phenomenon that as far as we know is unique to Yosemite. All you need to do is walk to the base of **Lower Yosemite Falls (C)**. Being perfectly situated to catch the moonlight early in the evening, during these times of high water, the spray and light combine to create ethereal, pure white "moonbows", which arc gracefully across *Yosemite Creek (6)*. You won't believe it until you see it, but once you've seen it you'll never forget it!



1

About how many people visit Yosemite National Park each year?

\_\_\_\_\_

1  
1m

2

Choose the best word or group of words to complete both the sentences below and tick your choices.

The best time to go on a tour of Yosemite Valley is

- a) **at full moon.**     **at new moon.**     **in the rain.**     **when cloud covered.**

The best time to start is at

- b) **dawn.**     **midday.**     **sunset.**     **night.**

2a  
1m  
2b  
1m

3

It is suggested that you should arrive at Glacier Point half an hour before sunset. Why should summer visitors arrive especially early?

Tick **one**.

- to make sure they do not miss the sunset   
 to avoid the crowds and get a good seat   
 to watch a presentation   
 to make sure they start the tour in good time

3  
1m

4

When would it be possible to see a "moonbow" in Yosemite National Park?

Tick **one**.

- between February and March   
 between April and June   
 between August and September   
 between October and November

4  
1m

5

Look at the text in the box below.

**Underline three** words that show the "moonbows" are beautiful.

Being perfectly situated to catch the moonlight early in the evening, during these times of high water, the spray and light combine to create ethereal, pure white "moonbows", which arc gracefully across Yosemite Creek.

5  
2m

please turn over

TOTAL  
7m

6

Draw **four** lines to show which view can be seen from each location.

Glacier Point

silhouette of the mountains

Wawona Tunnel

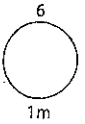
pure white "moonbows"

Swinging Bridge

moon rise through the pink haze

Lower Yosemite Falls

the falls reflected in the river



7

Look at the paragraph starting *If you are lucky enough ...*

a) What is the **main** purpose of **this** paragraph?

To make the Yosemite Valley sound ...

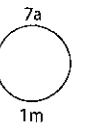
Tick **one**.

of scientific interest.

magical and beautiful.

of historical interest.

child-friendly.



b) What are the purposes of the **whole** text?

Tick **two**.

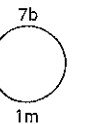
to amuse

to discuss

to inform

to record

to persuade



8

This text is mainly intended for which of the following?

Tick **one**.

teachers

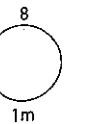
tourists

children

geographers

historians

scientists



9

What additional information does the map provide that is not provided by the text or the photographs?

Tick **one**.

- the names of viewpoints
- a description of the area
- a detailed view of the area
- a simplified view of the park

9  
1m

10

Look at the map.

The letters A, B, C appear like this **(A)**.  
What is the purpose of these letters?

Tick **one**.

- to abbreviate the names of the places you must visit
- to show the places to be avoided in the winter
- to show the order in which to visit the places on the tour
- to show the fastest way in which to complete the tour

10  
1m

11

How does the writer assume that the reader will be travelling around the area?

Tick **one**.

- on horse-back
- in a boat
- by bicycle
- by car

11  
1m

12

*You won't believe it until you see it, but once you've seen it you'll never forget it!*

What does this sentence mean?

Tick **one**.

- The writer is making things up.
- You will need to take photos so that you will never forget it.
- It is very different to other places on Earth.
- Once you see it, you will wish you hadn't.

12  
1m

**End of test. Please check your work.**

TOTAL  
8m

# "Your Full Moon Tour"

## Answers

1 About how many people visit Yosemite National Park each year?

Award 1 mark for  
(over) 3.7 million

(1 mark)

2 Choose the best word or group of words to complete both the sentences below and tick your choices.

The best time to go on a tour of Yosemite Valley is

- a) at full moon.  at new moon.  in the rain.  when cloud covered.

The best time to start is at

- b) dawn.  midday.  sunset.  night.

Award 1 mark for each correct answer

a) at full moon

(1 mark)

b) sunset

(1 mark)

3 It is suggested that you should arrive at Glacier Point half an hour before sunset. Why should summer visitors arrive especially early?

Tick one.

- to make sure they do not miss the sunset   
to avoid the crowds and get a good seat   
to watch a presentation   
to make sure they start the tour in good time

Award 1 mark for

to watch a presentation

(1 mark)

4 When would it be possible to see a "moonbow" in Yosemite National Park?

Tick one.

- between February and March   
between April and June   
between August and September   
between October and November

Award 1 mark for

between April and June

(1 mark)

5 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline three words that show the "moonbows" are beautiful.

Being perfectly situated to catch the moonlight early in the evening, during these times of high water, the spray and light combine to create ethereal, pure white "moonbows", which arc gracefully across Yosemite Creek.

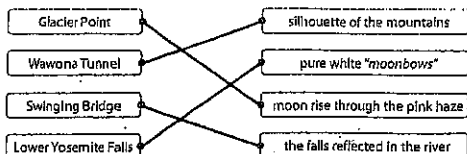
Award 2 marks for identifying all three of the following.

Award 1 mark for any two of the following:

- (create) ethereal
- pure (white)
- (arc) gracefully

(2 marks)

6 Draw four lines to show which view can be seen from each location.



Award 1 mark for four pairs matched correctly

(1 mark)

7 Look at the paragraph starting *If you are lucky enough ...*

a) What is the main purpose of this paragraph?

To make the Yosemite Valley sound ...

Tick one.

- of scientific interest.   
magical and beautiful.   
of historical interest.   
child-friendly.

b) What are the purposes of the whole text?

Tick two.

- to amuse  to discuss   
to inform  to record   
to persuade

a) Award 1 mark for

magical and beautiful

(1 mark)

b) Award 1 mark for both answers ticked

to inform

to persuade

(1 mark)

8 This text is mainly intended for which of the following?

Tick one.

- teachers  tourists   
children  geographers   
historians  scientists

Award 1 mark for

tourists

(1 mark)

9 What additional information does the map provide that is not provided by the text or the photographs?

Tick one.


- the names of viewpoints   
a description of the area   
a detailed view of the area   
a simplified view of the park

Award 1 mark for

a simplified view of the park

(1 mark)

10 Look at the map.

The letters A, B, C appear like this . What is the purpose of these letters?

Tick one.

- to abbreviate the names of the places you must visit   
to show the places to be avoided in the winter   
to show the order in which to visit the places on the tour   
to show the fastest way in which to complete the tour

Award 1 mark for

to show the order in which to visit the places on the tour

(1 mark)

11 How does the writer assume that the reader will be travelling around the area?

Tick one.

- on horse-back   
in a boat   
by bicycle   
by car

Award 1 mark for

by car

(1 mark)

12 *You won't believe it until you see it, but once you've seen it you'll never forget it!*

What does this sentence mean?

Tick one.

- The writer is making things up.   
You will need to take photos so that you will never forget it.   
It is very different to other places on Earth.   
Once you see it, you will wish you hadn't.

Award 1 mark for

it is very different to other places on Earth

(1 mark)



0  
1  
2  
3  
4

1  
2  
3  
4

10

10