

The purpose of these training test materials is to orient teachers and students to the types of questions on FSA tests. By using these materials, students will become familiar with the types of items and response formats they will see on the actual test. The training questions and answers are not intended to demonstrate the length of the actual test, nor should student responses be used as an indicator of student performance on the actual test. The training test is not intended to guide classroom instruction.

**Directions for Answering the
ELA Reading Training Test Questions**

If you don't understand a question, ask your teacher to explain it to you. Your teacher has the answers to the training test questions.

To offer students a variety of texts on the FSA ELA Reading tests, authentic and copyrighted stories, poems, and articles appear as they were originally published, as requested by the publisher and/or author. While these real-world examples do not always adhere to strict style conventions and/or grammar rules, inconsistencies among passages should not detract from students' ability to understand and answer questions about the texts.

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Read the passage “James “Jim” Bridger” and then answer Numbers 1 through 5.

James “Jim” Bridger

1804-1881

- 1 James Felix “Jim” Bridger’s life story is as interesting as the tall tales he used to tell. Bridger was born in Virginia in 1804. Later, his family moved to a farm near St. Louis, Missouri. At age fourteen, he went to work as a blacksmith’s apprentice. He learned how to make horseshoes and other products out of iron.
- 2 When Bridger was eighteen years old, he was the youngest member of a group that explored and mapped the Missouri River. As a part of the expedition, he was one of the first European American people to see the natural wonders of what is now Yellowstone National Park.
- 3 Yellowstone was the first in a long line of landscapes that Bridger was to encounter before others. While spending the winter of 1824–25 in what is now Cove, Utah, members of the team Bridger was with argued about which direction they thought the Bear River went. The team chose Bridger to explore the river. He ended up at the Great Salt Lake, which he mistook for an inlet of the Pacific Ocean because of the lake’s saltiness. For many years, people assumed Bridger was the first non-Native American to discover the Great Salt Lake. However, some now think that Etienne Provost, a French-Canadian trapper, may have seen it first.
- 4 Using the skills he learned while exploring the Missouri, Bridger became very good at trapping beavers for their furs, also called “pelts.” By 1830, Bridger became part owner of a company that specialized in beaver trapping. Beaver pelts were very popular for hats and clothing at the time.
- 5 Bridger’s success at trapping—as well as the growing number of people moving to the western part of America—led to the building of a trading post and fort near the Green River in Wyoming. It became known as Fort Bridger. Many people passed the fort as they traveled west on the Oregon Trail. Often, the settlers stopped to buy supplies, get their wagons fixed, and hear Jim Bridger’s stories. He became famous for telling tall tales to the people passing through.

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- 6 Bridger's stories were funny, extravagant, and often unbelievable. He would tell stories of glass mountains, "petrified" birds singing "petrified" songs, and talk about days when Pike's Peak was just a hole in the ground. These outrageous stories were told both to tease new arrivals from the east and to amuse the locals who knew they weren't true.
- 7 The Rocky Mountains were largely unexplored and Bridger spent many years hiking them and trapping animals. In his travels, he learned a great deal about the terrain and wildlife of the area. Because of his knowledge and skills, he became a valued guide. People often hired him to lead them across the mountains.
- 8 In 1850, Bridger found a short cut through the mountains of Wyoming through the Rocky Mountains. This path became known as Bridger's Pass. Because the pass shortened trips by sixty-one miles, settlers moving west frequently used it. In addition, the pass later became part of the Union Pacific Railroad. The Union Pacific was part of the Transcontinental Railroad, the first railroad to cross America from coast to coast.
- 9 Bridger spent twenty years working as a guide. When he retired, he went back to Missouri to live on a farm, where he died in 1881 at the age of seventy-seven. Jim Bridger is remembered for being a skilled mountain man and storyteller. Today, there are many places in the American West named in honor of Jim Bridger.

"James "Jim" Bridger" written for educational purposes.

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Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on the passage "James "Jim" Bridger."

1. How does the author introduce Jim Bridger in the passage?
 - Ⓐ by mentioning the tall tales he often told
 - Ⓑ by mentioning a few of the places that he discovered
 - Ⓒ by describing his first career as a blacksmith's apprentice
 - Ⓓ by describing the details of his first trip exploring the country

2. Part A

Which statement describes Bridger's importance as an explorer?

- Ⓐ Bridger spent many years hiking and traveling the Rocky Mountains.
- Ⓑ By the time he reached his fifties, Bridger was an experienced explorer.
- Ⓒ Bridger was the first European American to discover much of the West.
- Ⓓ Bridger had many talents besides exploring: blacksmithing, trapping, and story-telling.

Part B

Which statement from the passage supports the response in Part A?

- Ⓐ "At age fourteen, he went to work as a blacksmith's apprentice."
- Ⓑ "Yellowstone was the first in a long line of landscapes that Bridger was to encounter before others."
- Ⓒ "For many years, people assumed Bridger discovered the Great Salt Lake."
- Ⓓ "Because of his knowledge and skills, he became a valued guide."

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3.



What three details can the reader get from both the map and the passage?

- Ⓐ the state where Bridger died
- Ⓑ the route of Bridger's travels
- Ⓒ the location of Bridger's Pass
- Ⓓ the state where Bridger was born
- Ⓔ a place that was named after Bridger

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4. The root of the word terrain is terra, which means "earth."

Based on this information, what does the word terrain mean as it is used in the passage?

"In his travels, he learned a great deal about the terrain and wildlife of the area." (paragraph 7)

- Ⓐ a type of soil
- Ⓑ a rugged area
- Ⓒ plants and animals
- Ⓓ features of the land

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5. **Part A**

Fill in the circle **before** the meaning of the word extravagant as it is used in this sentence from the passage.

"Bridger's stories were funny, extravagant, and often unbelievable."
(paragraph 6)

- Ⓐ reckless
- Ⓑ wasteful
- Ⓒ generous
- Ⓓ larger than life

Part B

Fill in the circle **before** the two words or phrases from the passage that help readers determine the meaning of the word.

- 6 Ⓐ Bridger's stories were Ⓑ funny, Ⓒ extravagant, and Ⓓ often unbelievable. Ⓔ He would Ⓕ tell stories Ⓖ of glass mountains, Ⓗ "petrified" birds singing "petrified" songs, Ⓘ and talk about days when Pike's Peak was just a hole in the ground. Ⓝ These Ⓚ outrageous stories Ⓛ were told both to Ⓜ tease new arrivals Ⓝ from the east and to Ⓞ amuse the locals Ⓟ who knew Ⓠ they weren't true.

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Choose the correct word or phrase to fill in each blank in the passage. For each blank, fill in the circle **before** the word or phrase that is correct.

6. Have you ever wondered how a relatively thin sleeping bag, jacket, or comforter filled with down can be so warm? Down feathers are the light, soft feathers found beneath the tougher exterior feathers of birds. Their loose structure allows them to trap air, and this insulation keeps the bird warm. In the same way, humans use down as insulation in many everyday products that keep _____ [A us B it C we D who] warm.
7. People have been using down feathers in this way for centuries. Though _____ [A feathers from various B feathers variously from C variously feathers from D various feathers from] species of birds were used in the past, the most common source today is the domestic goose. Most of the supply comes from _____ [A China. While B China, C China, while D China, and while] the rest mostly originates in Europe and Canada.
8. How do you know whether your jacket or pillow is actually lined with down? The Federal Trade Commission, which _____ [A prommotes B primotes C prenotes D promotes] consumer _____ [A protection-- B protection: C protection, D protection] mandates that products labeled "100% Down" must contain nothing but down feathers. If you just see "Down" on the label, this indicates there is a mixture of both fiber and feathers. A label of "Goose Down" signifies a composition of at least 90% goose feathers.

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