

GRADE

4

English Language Arts

Assesslet

Informational/
Explanatory Genre

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Directions

- Read all the directions for each question carefully and think about the answer.
- This Assesslet contains five items. Questions 1-3 are selected-response items where you choose the one **BEST** answer. Answer each question by filling in the circle **on your answer document**.
- Question 4 is a constructed-response item. Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Question 5 is an extended-response item. Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your essay on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Be sure to write your answers in the spaces provided **on the answer document**.

Read Passages A and B.
Then, respond to the questions that follow.

Passage A: Ponce de Leon (1460-1521)

¹ Imagine you had the opportunity to sail the seas with Christopher Columbus! That is exactly what happened to Ponce de Leon in 1493. He heard of Columbus's discovery of lands far across the sea and decided to join him in his further explorations of the New World.

² Ponce de Leon was a Spanish explorer and soldier. He is best known as the first European to land on North America.

³ His voyage with Columbus reached the Dominican Republic. Instead of returning to Spain with Columbus, Ponce de Leon decided to stay and continue searching for gold in the New World. He was later appointed governor of the Dominican Republic.

⁴ Unfortunately, Ponce de Leon became greedy for gold and would stop at nothing to get it. He knew that finding gold would make him wealthy and famous. The Indians told Ponce de Leon that they believed he would find gold on the nearby island of Puerto Rico. In 1508, Ponce gathered soldiers, took one ship, and sailed to Puerto Rico. He was also named governor of Puerto Rico by King Ferdinand of Spain.

⁵ The king encouraged Ponce to find more land and gold. The next adventure took him to the coast of Florida in April 1513; he named it "Pascua de Florida", or Feast of Flowers, in honor of Palm Sunday. Following the Gulf Stream, a powerful current of water, he and his shipmates traveled up the coast of Florida. The discovery of this route would later become important, allowing Spanish ships to travel easily between Spain and the Americas. Ponce de Leon then returned to Puerto Rico.

⁶ In 1521, he returned to Florida with 2 ships and 200 men to build colonies for the King of Spain. The Native Americans did not welcome the settlers there and many battles were fought. While working, he and the settlers were attacked, and a poison arrow hit him in the thigh. As a result of the injury, he died soon after.



Passage B: The Native Guide

Captain de Leon told us there were challenges ahead. Mosquitoes were devouring us. The Captain brought us here to build colonies for Spain, but he was also determined to find more gold. I had known the Captain for some time, and he spoke of gold with special zeal. However, the Calusa Indians were not going to give up their land easily.

I examined the weight of the footprints in the wet mulch. They belonged to a tribe of fourteen Calusa Indians. I didn't tell the Captain about their cutlasses, which are long, sharp blades. The shorn leaves and grass on either side made it obvious enough that the Calusas had cut their way through the forest with cutlasses.

The tribe must have headed into the forest that morning. The Captain pushed us hard to make it to the edge of the tree line. The Captain and his team set up camp there at the edge.

The smell of fear was under our clothes. We knew there would be a fierce battle. We huddled around the fire in fear of what may lie ahead.

Now, I sit alone in the night. The moon looks down on us, as open as a child's face. It is our last meal out in the clear. Tomorrow, we enter the forest to face whatever is going to happen.



Selected-Response Question

For questions 1-3, answer each question by filling in the circle on your answer document.

- 1** The two Passages focus on the same central idea. Which sentence **BEST** describes the central idea of Passages A and B?
- A** Christopher Columbus discovered North America.
 - B** The Gulf Stream became an important naval discovery.
 - C** Ponce de Leon was killed by natives with a poison arrow.
 - D** Ponce de Leon was a Spanish explorer who was determined to find gold and wealth.
- 2** Which of the following was one of the reasons that Ponce de Leon was determined to find gold in his explorations?
- A** He conquered Puerto Rico by force.
 - B** He forced his men to explore dangerous territories.
 - C** He knew the king of Spain was encouraging him to discover gold.
 - D** He and his men attacked the peaceful natives that occupied Florida.
- 3** Which statement **BEST** describes the reason why Ponce de Leon became a famous Spanish explorer?
- A** He was an experienced soldier.
 - B** He was not interested in searching for gold.
 - C** He was named the governor of Florida by the King of Spain.
 - D** He was the first European to land on North America and to discover Florida.

Constructed-Response Question

- 4** Identify the setting of Passage B. Support your answer with one detail from Passage A and one detail from Passage B.

Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document**.

Extended-Response Question

- 5** Write an informational essay explaining how you know that Ponce de Leon was determined to find gold in his quest for wealth. In your essay be sure to:
- Include at least two examples from Passage A to support your answer.
 - Include at least two examples from Passage B to support your answer.
 - Explain how these examples show his determination.

Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your essay on the lines provided **on your answer document**.