

Skill: Identify/Classify Sequence**4th Grade Assessment NONFICTION: Staying in Phoenix**

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Long ago, Native Americans lived in the state of Arizona. They lived in a place that is called Phoenix today. They were farmers. Their environment was very dry. It was a desert. A desert is an environment that gets less than ten inches of rain during a year. They dug great canals. They were ten feet deep and 30 feet wide. Canals are like man-made rivers--they are paths water flows in. The canals brought water from a river to the land. They used it to farm. That was long ago, and many years later the Native Americans left.

Then in 1867, more than 100 years ago, more people came. They were settlers who moved to the area. They saw where the canals had been. Dirt had fallen into them, but they dug them again. Just as before, they got water to their land from the river. They named their new town Phoenix.

For a while people were glad to settle in Phoenix, but then there was a drought. In summer the river dried up. Then they had no water, crops died, and it was difficult to get food. Some people gave up and moved away since they knew they might not have water all the time.

People who stayed figured out a way to solve their problem. They built a dam. A dam is a wall that goes across a river. Some of the water can flow through it, but more water stays behind it. That water makes a kind of lake, which is called a reservoir. The people of Phoenix had water they could count on. They would open the dam when they needed more water for their crops.

Today if you go to Phoenix you will see farms. You can buy fresh fruit and vegetables that grow there. You can see them growing all year. That is because it is always warm in Phoenix. In summer it is very hot because it is a desert.

Today there are many more people living in Phoenix even though it is so hot and dry. They have the water they need and they also solved another problem. It was so hot in summer that people did not want to live here, but then someone invented a solution. He invented the air conditioner. Now that there is air conditioning, people can live in this very hot climate. They have come to stay in Phoenix.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

1. What happens first in this history?

- a. Native Americans left Phoenix.
- b. Native Americans built canals.
- c. Settlers moved to Phoenix.
- d. Native Americans farmed.

2. What happened after the river dried up?

- a. The Native Americans left.
- b. Settlers built canals.
- c. Settlers built a dam.
- d. Native Americans returned.

3. What happened after the settlers solved the water problem?

- a. People could grow crops.
- b. People had a lake.
- c. It was cooler.
- d. It was hotter.

4. What happened after people got air conditioners?

- a. People grew more crops.
- b. People needed more water.
- c. People moved away.
- d. People moved to Phoenix.

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

What happened after people built a reservoir?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	c	a	d

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. People had water all the time.

Skill: Identify/Classify Sequence 4th Grade Assessment

FICTION: Living in the Desert Center for Urban Education ©2007

My grandmother lives in Phoenix. It has been ten years since she moved there. I was only 2 years old when she left Chicago because she had to move to a warmer climate. She had difficulty living here because the winters in Chicago were too cold. Her doctor advised that she could not stay in such a cold climate. She was sorry to leave because she had her family and her friends here. But soon she made more friends in Phoenix.

My mother goes to visit her in winter. I can't go because I have to be in school, but last summer I went for a long visit. I went all by myself, and it was a wonderful trip because I love my grandmother and I got to fly for the first time.

I traveled by plane to Phoenix. Since I had never been on an airplane before, I was very excited. When we landed, the pilot said it was 110 degrees. I thought I had not heard him clearly. It had never been that hot in Chicago. I asked the passenger next to me, "Did he say 10 degrees?" She said, "No, 110. That's Phoenix weather."

I got off the plane and saw my grandmother. We were both so happy I was there, and she gave me a big long hug. Then we went to get my suitcase. It took about 10 minutes to get it. I was worried that they had lost it, but there it was.

Then we went outside, and I was so surprised. I felt like I was like in a heater. It was hotter than I had ever felt. It was 110 degrees.

We went to the bus stop. The bus came right away, and I got on and was so glad it came so quickly. It was air-conditioned just like the buses in Chicago. But in Phoenix you really need that air conditioning. It took about 30 minutes for us to get to her block. I didn't mind the long ride because it was interesting to look outside the window. People had brown grass; it was all dried out. They didn't have trees, but they had really big cactus plants. I had never seen such big cactus plants. The only ones I had seen before had been small ones at the Conservatory.

When we got off the bus, we had to walk three blocks to her apartment. I was so hot again, and I asked my grandmother, "How can you live in such a hot place?"

"Oh, you get used to it," she said. She was right, because it took a few weeks, but I got used to the heat. It was hottest in the middle of the day, and stayed inside when it was hottest. We went out in the morning when it was cooler, and at night it even felt cold.

I went home at the end of summer. My mother came to meet me at the airport. She hugged me and picked up my suitcase. Then we got on the bus. She asked about my trip, and I told her, "You're lucky you don't go in summer. But it is always great to be with grandma." My mother said, "I miss her a lot, so next time I'll go with you."

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

6. What is the first thing that happens in the story?

- a. The grandmother goes to the doctor.
- b. The grandmother moves to Phoenix.
- c. The mother visits the grandmother.
- d. The grandmother visits Chicago.

7. What happens after the grandmother moves to Phoenix?

- a. She buys a house.
- b. She comes back to visit.
- c. She makes new friends.
- d. She is too hot.

8. What happens after the grandmother comes to the airport?

- a. They get on the bus.
- b. She hugs her granddaughter.
- c. They get the suitcase.
- d. She feels hot.

9. What happens at the end of the story?

- a. The mother goes to visit Phoenix.
- b. The mother meets her daughter.
- c. The grandmother comes to visit.
- d. The daughter makes another trip.

10. *Write your own answer to this question.*

What happens after they get off the bus in Phoenix?

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Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	a	c	b	b

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. They had to walk to the apartment.