



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions.** Share this test item with your parent. Read the passage and answer the related questions on the following page. Ask your parent to sign the paper to show that you worked together on this test item.

### **What's That in Your Backpack?**

by Mona Pease

Are you carrying a forest on your back? Of course not! But if you dig through your backpack, you will probably find many things that come from the forest. You might have books, pencils, and even a sweet candy treat, all from the forest. Is your pack feeling heavier yet?

**Let's explore some of these things and see how they get from the woods to your backpack. Let's start with the paper . . .**

Papermaking begins in the forest, where trees are marked to be cut down. Once the trees are cut, the biggest branches are removed. The logs, as they are now called, are stacked in huge piles at the edge of the forest. A logging truck takes them to the paper mill. At the mill, the logs go through many steps to be made into paper. After the bark is removed, the wood is chipped, then cooked with chemicals. This turns the wood into a mushy pulp. Next, the pulp is washed, bleached, and drained. Then it is sprayed onto big screens to dry. The finished sheets of paper are put onto giant rolls. Some of these rolls of paper weigh as much as 50,000 pounds! Finally, the paper is lined, cut, or folded for people to use.

**Let's check back in that backpack . . .**

Your pencils come from the forest, too. They are made from the wood of a cedar tree. At the pencil factory, cedar logs are sawed into chunky blocks, then sliced thin to make flat slats. Next, narrow grooves are cut into the slats to hold the graphite, which is the "lead" part you write with. After the graphite is set in place, two slats are glued together, sandwiching the graphite inside. Then the pencils are cut and painted. Finally, the eraser is added.

**Now, what about that special treat you have? Mmm...maple sugar candy, made from the sap of sugar maple trees.**

People who make maple syrup must read the signs of the season to know when to get to work. In the early spring, when daytime and nighttime temperatures are just right, the trees can be tapped. First, a small hole is drilled into the tree. Then the tap—a short tube—is placed into the hole. Sap drips through the tap into a bucket. When the bucket is full, the sap is taken to the sugarhouse. There, the sap is boiled and boiled until it thickens into syrup. If you boil the syrup even longer, it crystallizes (hardens) into maple sugar. Then, it is quickly put into molds to give it a pretty shape. Paper. Pencils. Candy. Your backpack is full. Can you believe that so many things you carry around every day come from forests?

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This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

Click on the sentence that gives the **best** conclusion about the people who make maple syrup.

- A. They must protect trees.
- B. They must pay attention to nature.
- C. They must work outdoors all of the time.
- D. They must like the taste of maple syrup.

**Part B**

Click on **two** sentences from the passage that **best** support your answer in part A.

People who make maple syrup must read the signs of the season to know when to get to work. In the early spring, when daytime and nighttime temperatures are just right, the trees can be tapped. First, a small hole is drilled into the tree. Then the tap—a short tube—is placed into the hole. Sap drips through the tap into a bucket. When the bucket is full, the sap is taken to the sugarhouse. There, the sap is boiled and boiled until it thickens into syrup.

**Parent Information.** The Smarter Balanced assessment is an online summative assessment that measures a student’s progress toward college/career readiness and is administered at the end of the grade level. This page includes one example of a test item that is found in the **third grade** Smarter Balanced Practice test. To experience other test items, visit the Smarter Balanced Practice test website at the following link: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test>. **Note:** *Some of the topics presented in the practice test may not have been taught in your student’s class yet.*

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_