



Kaizly 4th Grade Readiness Assessment

Date Created: July 18, 2025

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Section 1

Instructions: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Rainforests are thick, warm forests that get a lot of rain. A rainforest has different layers of trees and plants. Tall trees form a canopy at the top, blocking much of the sunlight. Many animals live in these layers: monkeys and birds stay high in the canopy, while insects and frogs live on the darker forest floor. Rainforests have **numerous** types of plants and animals thanks to the warm, wet climate.

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

2. Why is the forest floor of a rainforest darker than the canopy?

Section 2

Instructions: Writing task: follow the prompt below.

1. Write a short paragraph (4–5 sentences) about a place you visited or a fun experience you had. Be sure to include a topic sentence and some details.

Section 3

Instructions: Solve these math problems.

1. $7 \times 8 = ?$

2. Fill in the blank: $_ \times 5 = 30$.

3. There are 24 cookies. If 4 children share them equally, how many cookies does each child get?

4. Which fraction is larger: $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$?

Section 4

Instructions: Answer the science questions.

1. What force pulls objects down when you drop them?

2. Kevin watered Plant B every day but did not water Plant A. After two weeks, Plant B is healthy and Plant A is wilted. What can Kevin conclude from this experiment?

Section 5

Instructions: Answer the social studies questions.

1. What is the name of the state you live in?

2. Who was the first President of the United States?

3. On a compass rose, which direction is at the top of the map?



Kaizly 4th Grade Readiness Assessment (Parent Answer Sheet)

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Section 1

Instructions: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Rainforests are thick, warm forests that get a lot of rain. A rainforest has different layers of trees and plants. Tall trees form a canopy at the top, blocking much of the sunlight. Many animals live in these layers: monkeys and birds stay high in the canopy, while insects and frogs live on the darker forest floor. Rainforests have ****numerous**** types of plants and animals thanks to the warm, wet climate.

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?

Hint: Think about what the whole passage is describing.

Answer: It explains that a rainforest has different layers (like the canopy and forest floor) and is home to many plants and animals.

2. Why is the forest floor of a rainforest darker than the canopy?

Hint: What do the tall trees do to the sunlight?

Answer: Because the tall trees of the canopy block most of the sunlight from reaching the forest floor.

Explanation: The passage says the canopy blocks much of the sunlight, so the lower forest floor stays darker.

Assessment Recommendations:

Needs Improvement:	For a child entering 4th grade who needs improvement in reading, focus on building confidence and basic skills. Make reading a daily habit with easy, enjoyable books (let them choose stories they like). Read together and discuss the story; ask simple questions like "What happened?" or "Who are the characters?" to build comprehension. If they still struggle with sounding out words, spend a few minutes with phonics practice (games or flashcards) to reinforce decoding. Visit the library often and let them pick books – many libraries have fun summer reading programs to motivate kids.
Approaching Ready:	If a rising 4th grader is approaching readiness in reading, continue daily reading but target specific weak spots. Have them summarize chapters or predict what will happen next to practice comprehension. Discuss books or articles together – for example, ask "Why did the character do that?" to build inference skills. Continue to expand vocabulary by talking about interesting words you encounter in stories. Keeping reading fun is key – maybe let them read a comic series or kids' magazines on topics they love. This will shore up their skills without it feeling like a chore.
Ready or Above:	For an on-track 4th grader in reading, the goal is to keep them engaged and even challenge them a bit. Encourage them to explore new books, including some slightly harder ones or different genres (fantasy, science, history) to broaden their exposure. They can read independently, but show interest by asking about what they read – this helps them articulate their understanding. Consider a family reading challenge or book club where you both read the same book and talk about it. The idea is to maintain their habit (at least 20 minutes of reading a day) so they enter 4th grade ready to excel.

Section 2

Instructions: Writing task: follow the prompt below.

1. Write a short paragraph (4–5 sentences) about a place you visited or a fun experience you had. Be sure to include a topic sentence and some details.

Hint: Think of a memorable place or day and start by saying what it was. Then add a few sentences describing what happened.

Answer: Answers will vary. The response should have a clear topic (e.g. a trip to the beach) and a few detail sentences. For example: "Last summer I went to the beach with my family. We played in the sand and swam in the ocean. I built a big sandcastle. It was a fun trip."

Explanation: An organized 4-5 sentence narrative of an experience shows they are ready for 4th grade writing.

Assessment Recommendations:

Needs Improvement:	For a child entering 4th grade who struggles with writing, focus on regular, low-pressure writing practice. Have them keep a simple journal where they write a few sentences a day about anything (a fun activity, what they ate). Don't worry about perfect grammar – the goal is to get their ideas flowing in complete sentences. You can also do creative projects: for example, writing a short story together or making a little comic (with captions). When you do correct writing, pick one or two important things (like starting sentences with capitals and ending with periods) to gently remind them. Lots of encouragement and fun writing tasks will build their confidence.
Approaching Ready:	If your rising 4th grader is close to writing readiness, practice will polish their skills. Encourage them to write a bit each week – maybe letters or emails to a relative, or a book report on a story they enjoyed. After they write, help them edit by checking one thing at a time: for instance, first check that each sentence has a subject and verb, then check capitalization and punctuation. This targeted editing helps them learn from mistakes. You can also find grade-level writing prompts (many online) to inspire them. The key is to keep them writing regularly so they become more comfortable and organized in expressing their thoughts.
Ready or Above:	For an on-track 4th grader in writing, the goal is to keep them sharp and even let them explore more advanced writing. Encourage fun projects like keeping a summer scrapbook with captions, writing a short story or comic, or starting a "newsletter" about your summer activities. If they enjoy typing, they could even keep a blog or Google Doc journal. Every now and then, ask if they'd like to revise one of their pieces together – for example, add more details or use more interesting words – to practice editing skills. Keeping writing enjoyable ensures they enter 4th grade confident and maybe even excited to write.

Section 3

Instructions: Solve these math problems.

1. $7 \times 8 = ?$

Answer: 56

Explanation: 7 times 8 equals 56.

2. **Fill in the blank:** $\underline{\quad} \times 5 = 30$.

Hint: Think of what number times 5 makes 30.

Answer: 6

Explanation: $6 \times 5 = 30$, so the missing number is 6.

3. **There are 24 cookies. If 4 children share them equally, how many cookies does each child get?**

Hint: Divide 24 by 4.

Answer: 6 cookies

Explanation: $24 \div 4 = 6$, so each child gets 6 cookies.

4. Which fraction is larger: $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$?

Answer: $\frac{1}{2}$ is larger.

Explanation: One-half (0.5) is greater than one-third (~0.33). *Note: Nearly all curricula cover basic fractions by this stage; if not, treat this as a learning opportunity rather than a gap.*

Assessment Recommendations:

Needs Improvement: For a child entering 4th grade who needs improvement in math, focus on reinforcing basic concepts in a fun, everyday way. Practice math facts regularly – just 5 minutes of addition/subtraction or simple multiplication each day can build fluency (use flashcards or apps like XtraMath to make it game-like). Use real-life situations: for example, let them measure ingredients in the kitchen to practice fractions, or ask them to count change and make small purchases to practice money skills. Playing math-related games (board games or card games that involve counting or strategy) also helps them strengthen number sense without it feeling like work. Target one or two big topics they struggled with (like telling time or basic division) and spend a little time each week reviewing those specifically.

Approaching Ready: If your rising 4th grader is close to ready in math, keep their skills fresh and target any small gaps. Continue to integrate math into daily life – have them help with cooking measurements or figuring out how many days until an event (to practice addition/subtraction with calendars). If there were one or two tricky areas (say, they are slow on multiplication facts or found simple fractions confusing), zero in on those: you might play multiplication bingo, or cut a pizza and talk about fractions to make it hands-on. There are also many online practice problems and games geared toward their grade – using those once or twice a week can reinforce what they learned in a quick, engaging way. Keeping them doing a bit of math over the summer will ensure they start 4th grade without losing their momentum.

Ready or Above: For an on-track 4th grader in math, the goal is to maintain their proficiency and even deepen their understanding. Keep them thinking mathematically through fun challenges: for example, pose riddles or puzzles that involve logic or math (sites like Bedtime Math offer daily kid-friendly math puzzles). Encourage them to explain their thinking when solving problems – teaching you how they solved a tricky problem helps solidify their own understanding. You can preview a bit of next grade's math in a casual way if they're interested (for instance, if they're going into 5th, maybe show how to multiply two two-digit numbers once, just to spark curiosity). However, focus mostly on practice that feels like play: card games that involve addition/multiplication, simple coding games that use math, etc. They'll enter 4th grade confident and possibly even ahead, having kept their math brain active.

Section 4

Instructions: Answer the science questions.

1. What force pulls objects down when you drop them?

Hint: It's the same force that keeps us on the ground.

Answer: Gravity.

Explanation: Gravity is the force that makes things fall to the ground.

2. Kevin watered Plant B every day but did not water Plant A. After two weeks, Plant B is healthy and Plant A is wilted. What can Kevin conclude from this experiment?

Hint: What was the only difference between Plant A and Plant B, and how did it affect them?

Answer: Plants need water to grow (Plant A died without water, so lack of water prevents growth).

Explanation: This tests the student's ability to draw a conclusion from an experiment.

Assessment Recommendations:

Needs Improvement: For a child entering 4th grade who needs improvement in science, the best approach is hands-on exploration. Do simple experiments at home to make science concepts real: for instance, make a baking soda and vinegar volcano to show a chemical reaction, or plant seeds in a cup to observe how plants grow with water and sunlight. Encourage their curiosity by taking nature walks – have them observe bugs, plants, clouds, etc., and ask them questions like "What do you notice?" or "Why do you think that happened?" Also, consider watching fun science shows (like Magic School Bus) or simple YouTube experiments together to spark interest. The goal is to build their basic science understanding in a memorable, enjoyable way so they're more ready for science class.

Approaching Ready: If your rising 4th grader is nearly ready in science, you can boost their confidence by engaging them in activities that blend fun with learning. Identify any topics they found confusing last year – for example, maybe they didn't fully grasp magnets or plant life cycles – and do a small related activity: play with a magnet set on the fridge or grow a small plant and keep a "growth diary." Ask them to predict what will happen in simple experiments (like "What do you think will happen if we put one of these plants in the dark?") to practice scientific thinking. Also use everyday moments: cook together to see how heat changes food (science in action) or observe the moon each night for a month and note the changes. These experiences will reinforce their knowledge and get them comfortable thinking like a scientist.

Ready or Above: For an on-track 4th grader in science, keep their natural curiosity alive. Encourage them to dive deeper into topics they love: if they really liked learning about space, visit a planetarium or watch a kids' documentary about planets; if they enjoyed animals, spend a day at the zoo or aquarium and talk about what you see. You can also try a more involved at-home science project, like building a simple model (maybe a model solar system or a baking soda rocket) to challenge them. Reading science-themed books or kid magazines (like National Geographic Kids) is another great way to extend their knowledge. By continuing to explore science in enjoyable ways, they'll enter 4th grade with enthusiasm and a broader understanding of the world.

Section 5

Instructions: Answer the social studies questions.

1. What is the name of the state you live in?

Answer: The name of the child's state (e.g., Texas).

Explanation: (The test can be adapted to any state by asking for that state's name.)

2. Who was the first President of the United States?

Answer: George Washington.

Explanation: George Washington was the nation's first president.

3. On a compass rose, which direction is at the top of the map?

Hint: Remember the four main directions on a map.

Answer: North.

Explanation: North is conventionally at the top of maps.

Assessment Recommendations:

Needs Improvement: For a child entering 4th grade who needs improvement in social studies, try making history and geography more personal and engaging. Start with your own family and community: tell simple stories about when you (or their grandparents) were little, or look at a family photo album and talk about the past – this helps them see history as real events. You can also explore your town: visit a local historical landmark or even an old building and explain why it's important. For geography, play with maps and globes: show them where you live, where other family members live, and where their favorite stories or movies take place. Play games like "Can you find Africa on the map?" or use a globe like a treasure hunt. Making social studies tangible and fun will help them catch up on basic concepts.

Approaching Ready: If your rising 4th grader is close to ready in social studies, you can boost their understanding with interactive learning. Reinforce geography by practicing with a map or globe regularly – for example, pick a country of the day and find it together, or track where Olympic athletes or movie characters come from. Connect history to things they like: if they learned a bit about presidents or famous people last year, maybe watch a kid-friendly movie or show about that time period (e.g., a cartoon about the American Revolution like "Liberty's Kids"). Discuss current events in a simple way: for instance, if there's a holiday like Independence Day, talk about why we celebrate it. These activities will strengthen what they know and fill any small gaps (like remembering certain state names or history facts) so they're fully ready for 4th grade.

Ready or Above: For an on-track 4th grader in social studies, keep their interest and build on it. Encourage them to dive deeper into topics they enjoyed – if they liked learning about a certain country or time period, find a children's book or documentary on that subject to watch together. You can also do a fun project: for example, help them create a simple family tree or personal timeline, or make a scrapbook of any trips or museum visits and include little historical facts they learned. To keep geography skills sharp, incorporate it into daily life (ask them to point out on a map where an item at home was made, or where an animal from the zoo naturally lives). Also continue to talk about the news or world events at an age-appropriate level – knowing that what's happening now connects to what they've learned will make them eager and ready for more social studies in 4th grade.