



Kaizly 7th Grade Readiness Assessment

2026 Edition · about 35 minutes · kaizly.com

A note for parents: This assessment checks the end-of-6th-grade skills your rising 7th grader will build on next year. Keep it low-pressure: it is a snapshot, not a test grade, and it is fine to take breaks between sections. The answer sheet at the back explains every answer and points you toward practical next steps.

Section 1: Reading

Instructions: Read the passage carefully, then answer the five questions using complete sentences and details from the text.

Maya pressed her nose against the bus window as the community garden slid past. For three years she had helped her grandmother tend the tomato beds there, and now a sign hung on the fence: CLOSING IN 30 DAYS. The city planned to pave the lot for parking spaces.

That evening, Maya spread poster board across the kitchen table. Her grandmother raised an eyebrow. "Homework?"

"A petition," Maya said. "If I collect two hundred signatures, the city council has to hear us at the next meeting."

Her grandmother smiled but shook her head. "Two hundred is a lot of doors to knock on."

"Then I'd better start tonight." Maya's stomach fluttered – she dreaded talking to strangers – but the garden was an anchor in her neighborhood, holding people steady when everything else seemed to drift. She thought of Mr. Okafor, who traded his peppers for stories, and of the kindergartners who planted sunflowers taller than themselves.

By Saturday, Maya had ninety-one signatures and a blister on her heel. It was not two hundred, and only three weeks remained. She taped a fresh sheet to her clipboard, took a slow breath, and knocked on the next door.

1. In one or two sentences, state a theme of this passage: a lesson about life that the story suggests.

2. Why does Maya start the petition even though she dreads talking to strangers?

3. The story suggests the garden matters to the whole neighborhood, not only to Maya. Copy one detail from the passage that supports this conclusion.

4. The passage says the garden "was an anchor in her neighborhood, holding people steady when everything else seemed to drift." What does this metaphor mean?

5. Based on the last paragraph, what can you infer Maya will do next, and what character trait does this show?

Section 2: Writing

Instructions: Complete each writing task in the space provided, paying attention to clear structure and correct grammar.

1. Essay prompt: Should middle school students be required to help with a community project each year? Write an introduction paragraph for an essay answering this question. Start with a hook, introduce the topic, and end with a clear thesis statement that gives your position and previews your reasons.

2. The topic sentence below is too vague. Rewrite it so it makes one specific, focused point that a paragraph could actually support.

There are many interesting things about volcanoes.

3. The sentence below contains a misplaced modifier. Rewrite it so it is clear what was sizzling.

Sizzling on the grill, we could smell the burgers from across the yard.

Section 3: Math

Instructions: Solve each problem and show your work in the space provided.

1. A trail mix recipe uses 2 cups of raisins for every 3 cups of peanuts. If you use 8 cups of raisins, how many cups of peanuts do you need to keep the same ratio?

2. A pack of 6 granola bars costs \$4.50. What is the cost of one granola bar?

3. What is 15% of 80?

4. Solve $\frac{3}{4} \div \frac{1}{2}$, and explain in one sentence what your answer tells you.

5. At dawn the temperature was -7°F . By noon it had risen 12 degrees. What was the temperature at noon?

6. Simplify the expression $3x + 2x$. Then evaluate your simplified expression when $x = 4$.

7. Solve for x : $x + 9 = 21$

8. Jordan's quiz scores are 82, 90, 78, 90, and 85. What is the mean (average) of the scores?

9. A triangle has a base of 10 cm and a height of 6 cm. What is its area?

Section 4: Science

Instructions: Answer each question in complete sentences, using science vocabulary where you can.

1. Priya wants to test whether fertilizer makes bean plants grow taller. She plants beans in two identical pots and adds fertilizer to only one. Name two things she must keep the same in both pots, and tell which pot is the control.

2. A student records this pattern: the more hours a heat lamp shines on a block of ice, the more melted water collects in the tray. Describe the relationship between the two variables.

3. Explain how water from the ocean can end up as a droplet inside a cloud. Use the words evaporation and condensation in your answer.

Section 5: Social Studies

Instructions: Answer each question in complete sentences, using specific names and places where you can.

1. Name one major civilization from ancient history and describe where in the world it was located.

2. A map's scale shows that 1 inch equals 50 miles. Two cities are 3 inches apart on the map. How many miles apart are the actual cities?

3. In one sentence, explain how living near a river helped an ancient civilization grow.



Kaizly 7th Grade Readiness Assessment (Parent Answer Sheet)

2026 Edition · about 35 minutes · kaizly.com

Section 1: Reading

Maya pressed her nose against the bus window as the community garden slid past. For three years she had helped her grandmother tend the tomato beds there, and now a sign hung on the fence: CLOSING IN 30 DAYS. The city planned to pave the lot for parking spaces.

That evening, Maya spread poster board across the kitchen table. Her grandmother raised an eyebrow. "Homework?"

"A petition," Maya said. "If I collect two hundred signatures, the city council has to hear us at the next meeting."

Her grandmother smiled but shook her head. "Two hundred is a lot of doors to knock on."

"Then I'd better start tonight." Maya's stomach fluttered – she dreaded talking to strangers – but the garden was an anchor in her neighborhood, holding people steady when everything else seemed to drift. She thought of Mr. Okafor, who traded his peppers for stories, and of the kindergartners who planted sunflowers taller than themselves.

By Saturday, Maya had ninety-one signatures and a blister on her heel. It was not two hundred, and only three weeks remained. She taped a fresh sheet to her clipboard, took a slow breath, and knocked on the next door.

1. In one or two sentences, state a theme of this passage: a lesson about life that the story suggests.

Hint: Think about what Maya keeps choosing to do even though it is uncomfortable for her.

Answer: Standing up for something you care about takes courage and persistence, even when the work is hard or uncomfortable. (Accept any reasonable theme supported by the story, such as one person's effort can protect a community.)

Explanation: A theme is a general lesson the story suggests, not a plot summary. Maya's repeated choice to keep knocking on doors despite her nerves points to a theme about courage and persistence.

2. Why does Maya start the petition even though she dreads talking to strangers?

Hint: Look for what the garden means to Maya and to the people around her.

Answer: She wants to save the community garden because it matters deeply to her and holds her neighborhood together; that goal outweighs her fear of talking to strangers.

Explanation: Character motivation is the reason behind an action. The passage shows Maya weighing her discomfort against what the garden means to her neighbors and choosing the garden.

3. The story suggests the garden matters to the whole neighborhood, not only to Maya. Copy one detail from the passage that supports this conclusion.

Hint: Find a sentence that shows someone besides Maya using or enjoying the garden.

Answer: Either detail works: Mr. Okafor traded his peppers for stories, or the kindergartners planted sunflowers taller than themselves. (Maya's three years gardening with her grandmother is also acceptable.)

Explanation: Citing evidence means pointing to specific words in the text. These details show neighbors of different ages using the garden, which supports the conclusion.

4. The passage says the garden "was an anchor in her neighborhood, holding people steady when everything else seemed to drift." What does this metaphor mean?

Hint: Think about what a real anchor does for a boat, then apply that idea to the garden.

Answer: The garden keeps the neighborhood stable and connected, the way an anchor keeps a boat from drifting away. The sentence compares the garden to an anchor without using like or as, which makes it a metaphor.

Explanation: Figurative language compares two unlike things to create meaning. Here the comparison shows the garden's steadying role in the community.

5. Based on the last paragraph, what can you infer Maya will do next, and what character trait does this show?

Hint: Notice what Maya does with her clipboard even after counting only ninety-one signatures.

Answer: She will keep going door to door until she reaches two hundred signatures. This shows she is determined and persistent.

Explanation: An inference combines text clues with reasoning. Taping a fresh sheet to the clipboard and knocking on the next door signals she has no intention of quitting.

Assessment Recommendations

Needs Improvement:	Reading with your child a few times a week is still one of the most powerful things you can do at this age, and it is not babyish: choose a novel or magazine you both enjoy and take turns. After each session, ask one why or how question, such as why did the character do that, and let your child point to the sentence that proves it. Keep the tone curious rather than quiz-like. Ten to fifteen minutes a day of this back-and-forth builds the inference and evidence skills 7th grade leans on.
Approaching Ready:	Your rising 7th grader has the basics; now stretch the analysis muscles. When they finish a chapter, ask them to name the character's biggest problem and predict how it might be solved, then check the prediction later. Hunt for figurative language together: challenge them to find one metaphor or simile in whatever they are reading and explain it in their own words. Occasionally ask them to back up an opinion about a book with an exact line from the page, since citing evidence is a daily habit in middle school English.
Ready or Above:	Feed this strength with richer material: a novel with a morally complicated main character, a memoir, or well-written articles on topics they love. Ask comparison questions, such as how two characters handle the same problem differently, or whether the author's argument would convince a skeptic. Encourage them to keep a simple reading journal with one favorite quotation per book and a sentence about why it stood out. Joining a library book club or swapping recommendations with a friend keeps momentum high without any pressure from you.

Section 2: Writing

1. Essay prompt: Should middle school students be required to help with a community project each year? Write an introduction paragraph for an essay answering this question. Start with a hook, introduce the topic, and end with a clear thesis statement that gives your position and previews your reasons.

Hint: Your final sentence should tell the reader exactly what you believe and hint at two or three reasons you will explain later.

Answer: Answers vary. A strong response opens with a hook, gives brief context, and ends with a thesis such as: Middle school students should be required to help with a community project each year because it builds responsibility, teaches real-world skills, and strengthens the neighborhoods they live in.

Explanation: A 7th-grade-ready introduction moves from a broad, attention-grabbing opening to a specific, arguable thesis. The thesis should state a position and preview the reasons the essay will develop.

2. The topic sentence below is too vague. Rewrite it so it makes one specific, focused point that a paragraph could actually support.

There are many interesting things about volcanoes.

Hint: Ask yourself: what exact idea about volcanoes will this one paragraph prove or explain?

Answer: Answers vary. Example: A single volcanic eruption can reshape the land around it in a matter of hours. Any rewrite that makes one specific, supportable claim is correct.

Explanation: A strong topic sentence narrows the subject to one arguable or explainable point. Vague words like many interesting things give the paragraph no direction.

3. The sentence below contains a misplaced modifier. Rewrite it so it is clear what was sizzling.

Sizzling on the grill, we could smell the burgers from across the yard.

Hint: The describing phrase should sit right next to the thing it describes. Who or what was actually sizzling?

Answer: Example: We could smell the burgers sizzling on the grill from across the yard. (Or: From across the yard, we could smell the burgers sizzling on the grill.)

Explanation: As written, the sentence says we were sizzling on the grill. Moving the phrase next to burgers fixes the misplaced modifier.

Assessment Recommendations

Needs Improvement: Skip full essays for now and practice in small, low-stakes doses. Ask your child to write one solid paragraph a few times a week on a topic they actually care about, such as arguing for a later bedtime or reviewing a video game, then read it together and pick one thing to improve. Focus on a single skill at a time: a clear topic sentence one week, complete sentences the next. A simple graphic organizer, even three boxes labeled point, evidence, and explanation, takes the mystery out of structure. Celebrate the improvement, not the mistakes.

Approaching Ready: Your child can build a paragraph; the next step is connecting several into an essay. Have them plan before writing: one sentence stating their thesis, plus a bullet for each supporting reason. After drafting, teach them to revise in two separate passes, one for ideas and organization, one for grammar and punctuation, since combining both at once overwhelms most middle schoolers. Reading their draft aloud is a surprisingly effective way to catch run-ons and missing words. Two short revision sessions a week will pay off quickly in 7th grade.

Ready or Above:

Strong writers grow fastest with real audiences and real feedback. Encourage your child to enter a writing contest, submit to a school newspaper or literary magazine, or keep a blog or journal on a topic they love. Introduce the idea of counterarguments: in persuasive pieces, have them state the other side's best point and answer it, which is a hallmark of advanced middle school writing. Studying how favorite authors open chapters or build arguments gives them models to borrow from. Variety helps too, so mix persuasive, narrative, and informational pieces.

Section 3: Math

1. A trail mix recipe uses 2 cups of raisins for every 3 cups of peanuts. If you use 8 cups of raisins, how many cups of peanuts do you need to keep the same ratio?

Hint: Figure out how many times bigger 8 is than 2, then scale the peanuts by the same factor.

Answer: 12 cups of peanuts

Explanation: 8 cups of raisins is 4 times the original 2 cups, so the peanuts also scale by 4: $3 \times 4 = 12$ cups.

2. A pack of 6 granola bars costs \$4.50. What is the cost of one granola bar?

Hint: A unit rate tells you the amount for exactly one item; divide the total cost by the number of bars.

Answer: \$0.75 per bar

Explanation: Divide the total cost by the count: $\$4.50 \div 6 = \0.75 for each bar.

3. What is 15% of 80?

Hint: Change the percent to a decimal or find 10% first, then half of that for the extra 5%.

Answer: 12

Explanation: 15% equals 0.15, and $0.15 \times 80 = 12$. Another route: 10% of 80 is 8, 5% is 4, and $8 + 4 = 12$.

4. Solve $\frac{3}{4} \div \frac{1}{2}$, and explain in one sentence what your answer tells you.

Hint: Dividing by a fraction is the same as multiplying by its reciprocal, and the answer tells how many halves fit inside three fourths.

Answer: $1 \frac{1}{2}$ (or $\frac{3}{2}$); it means one half fits into three fourths exactly one and a half times.

Explanation: $\frac{3}{4} \div \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{2}{1} = \frac{6}{4} = \frac{3}{2} = 1 \frac{1}{2}$. Division by a fraction asks how many of that fraction fit into the starting amount.

5. At dawn the temperature was -7°F . By noon it had risen 12 degrees. What was the temperature at noon?

Hint: Picture a thermometer or number line: start at -7 and move up 12.

Answer: 5°F

Explanation: $-7 + 12 = 5$. Moving up 7 degrees reaches 0, and the remaining 5 degrees lands at 5°F .

6. Simplify the expression $3x + 2x$. Then evaluate your simplified expression when $x = 4$.

Hint: Combine the like terms first, then substitute 4 in place of x .

Answer: $3x + 2x = 5x$; when $x = 4$, the value is 20.

Explanation: Like terms $3x$ and $2x$ combine to $5x$. Substituting $x = 4$ gives $5 \times 4 = 20$.

7. Solve for x : $x + 9 = 21$

Hint: Undo the addition by doing the same thing to both sides of the equation.

Answer: $x = 12$

Explanation: Subtract 9 from both sides: $x = 21 - 9 = 12$. Check: $12 + 9 = 21$.

8. Jordan's quiz scores are 82, 90, 78, 90, and 85. What is the mean (average) of the scores?

Hint: Add all the scores, then divide by how many scores there are.

Answer: 85

Explanation: The sum is $82 + 90 + 78 + 90 + 85 = 425$, and $425 \div 5 = 85$.

9. A triangle has a base of 10 cm and a height of 6 cm. What is its area?

Hint: The area of a triangle is one half of the base times the height.

Answer: 30 square centimeters

Explanation: Area = $\frac{1}{2} \times \text{base} \times \text{height} = \frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 6 = 30$ square centimeters.

Assessment Recommendations

- Needs Improvement:** Seventh grade math builds directly on ratios, fractions, percents, and negative numbers, so shoring these up now will make the whole year easier. Work in short, frequent sessions, about 15 minutes several times a week, and anchor problems in real life: double a recipe together, compare unit prices at the store, or track temperature changes on cold mornings. Let your child talk through their thinking out loud, since hearing the reasoning often reveals exactly where it breaks down. If you want more structure, a personalized program like Kaizly can pinpoint the specific skills to rebuild and turn them into short daily practice. Steady small wins will rebuild confidence fast.
- Approaching Ready:** The foundations are mostly in place, so target the wobbly spots with quick daily reps. Mix five-problem warm-ups that combine fractions, percents, and negatives so skills stay fresh together rather than in isolation. Card games and dice games work well for integer practice, and shopping trips are perfect for percent-off mental math. When your child misses a problem, resist re-teaching immediately; ask them to find and explain their own error first, which builds the self-checking habit 7th grade demands. A few weeks of this kind of practice usually closes the gap.
- Ready or Above:** Your rising 7th grader is set for pre-algebra, so offer challenges that reward flexible thinking. Try multi-step puzzles: two-step equations, percent increase and decrease problems, or figuring the better deal between two phone plans. Math competitions, logic puzzle books, and games like 24 or KenKen keep strong students engaged without feeling like homework. Invite them to be the family calculator, estimating the tip, splitting a bill, or scaling a recipe, and ask them to explain the shortcut they used. Explaining their reasoning clearly is the skill that separates good math students from great ones.

Section 4: Science

1. Priya wants to test whether fertilizer makes bean plants grow taller. She plants beans in two identical pots and adds fertilizer to only one. Name two things she must keep the same in both pots, and tell which pot is the control.

Hint: A fair test changes only one thing at a time; everything else must match.

Answer: She must keep everything except the fertilizer the same, for example the amount of water, the amount of sunlight, the type of soil, and the kind of plant (any two). The pot without fertilizer is the control.

Explanation: In a fair test, only one variable changes so any difference in results can be traced to it. The control group receives no treatment and gives a baseline for comparison.

2. A student records this pattern: the more hours a heat lamp shines on a block of ice, the more melted water collects in the tray. Describe the relationship between the two variables.

Hint: Ask yourself what happens to the second variable as the first one increases.

Answer: As the hours of lamp time increase, the amount of melted water also increases. The two variables increase together, which is a positive relationship (positive correlation).

Explanation: When two variables rise together, the relationship is positive. If one rose while the other fell, it would be a negative relationship.

3. Explain how water from the ocean can end up as a droplet inside a cloud. Use the words evaporation and condensation in your answer.

Hint: Start with the sun heating the ocean surface and follow the water upward.

Answer: The sun heats ocean water, and evaporation turns it into invisible water vapor that rises into the air. High up, the vapor cools, and condensation turns it back into tiny liquid droplets that gather to form clouds.

Explanation: Evaporation changes liquid water to vapor at the warm surface; condensation changes vapor back to liquid as rising air cools. Together they move water from the ocean into clouds.

Assessment Recommendations

Needs Improvement:	The best science review does not look like studying at all. Run simple kitchen experiments together, such as which cup of ice melts faster in sun versus shade, and ask the key questions each time: what did we change, what did we keep the same, and what did we measure? That vocabulary of variables and fair tests is the backbone of 7th grade science. Short science videos on cells, energy, and the water cycle can rebuild background knowledge in fun five-minute bites. Follow each one with a single question: what is one thing that surprised you?
Approaching Ready:	Your child has the core ideas; now sharpen the analytical habits 7th grade rewards. When something interesting happens, from a storm rolling in to bread rising, ask them to explain the why using a science word they know. Practice reading simple graphs and tables in news articles or on food packaging, and ask what pattern they see and what might explain it. Designing a small backyard or kitchen experiment from scratch, with a hypothesis, one changed variable, and a control, is a fantastic weekend project. These habits transfer directly to middle school labs.
Ready or Above:	Feed this curiosity with meatier material: a microscope or magnifier for pond water and leaves, documentaries about ecosystems or the human body, or a citizen science project where their observations contribute to real research. Challenge them to critique experiments, asking what a study would need to be a truly fair test or what other explanation could fit the data. Science museums, nature centers, and library STEM programs offer depth that textbooks cannot. If they love life science, a simple sketchbook of observed plants and insects builds exactly the observation skills 7th grade biology topics reward.

Section 5: Social Studies

1. Name one major civilization from ancient history and describe where in the world it was located.

Hint: Think of the ancient societies you studied that built cities, writing systems, or monuments, and picture where they sat on a world map.

Answer: Answers vary; examples: Ancient Egypt, along the Nile River in northeastern Africa; Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East; Ancient China, along the Huang He (Yellow) River in East Asia; Ancient Greece or Rome, around the Mediterranean Sea in southern Europe.

Explanation: Any recognized ancient civilization paired with a reasonably accurate location earns credit. Linking civilizations to their geography is baseline knowledge for 7th grade world studies.

2. A map's scale shows that 1 inch equals 50 miles. Two cities are 3 inches apart on the map. How many miles apart are the actual cities?

Hint: Multiply the map distance by the number of miles each inch represents.

Answer: 150 miles

Explanation: Each inch stands for 50 miles, so 3 inches represents $3 \times 50 = 150$ miles.

3. In one sentence, explain how living near a river helped an ancient civilization grow.

Hint: Think about what people need to farm, drink, and trade.

Answer: Rivers provided fresh water for drinking, fertile soil for farming, and an easy route for travel and trade, so people could settle in one place and support large communities.

Explanation: Any one of these benefits, water, fertile farmland, or transportation and trade, stated in a clear cause-and-effect sentence, is a complete answer.

Assessment Recommendations

Needs Improvement:	History and geography stick best when they feel like stories and puzzles rather than facts to memorize. Hang a world map where your family will actually see it and make a game of finding places from dinner conversation, the news, or sports. Pick one ancient civilization your child finds coolest, whether that is Egypt's pyramids or Rome's gladiators, and let them go deep with library books, videos, or a documentary night. Ask connect-the-dots questions like why do you think they built their cities next to that river? Curiosity about one civilization opens the door to all the others.
Approaching Ready:	Your child has the basics, so start linking places to reasons. On any map, practice using the scale to estimate real distances and the compass rose to describe directions, skills 7th grade uses constantly. When you encounter a historical story, ask how geography shaped it: why did that empire trade by sea, or why did that city grow at a river crossing? Board games and apps that involve maps, along with planning the route for a real family outing, make this practice feel like play. A few minutes of map talk each week keeps skills sharp.
Ready or Above:	Deepen this strength by moving from what happened to why it mattered. Invite your child to compare two ancient civilizations, asking what geography gave each one and what each contributed that we still use, from written laws to aqueducts. Historical fiction set in the ancient world, museum visits, and quality documentaries add texture that textbooks skip. Challenge them with latitude and longitude scavenger hunts, finding a mystery country from its coordinates. If they enjoy debate, ask them to argue which ancient contribution shaped our world most, and require evidence for the verdict.

Turn these results into a plan

Found a gap or two? That is exactly what this assessment is for. Kaizly builds a personalized, 20-minutes-a-day catch-up plan around your child's results and interests.

[Start at kaizly.com/register](https://kaizly.com/register) · [7th Grade guide + scoring help](#)