

Third Grade
MSTEP Homework Packet #

Sent home on _____

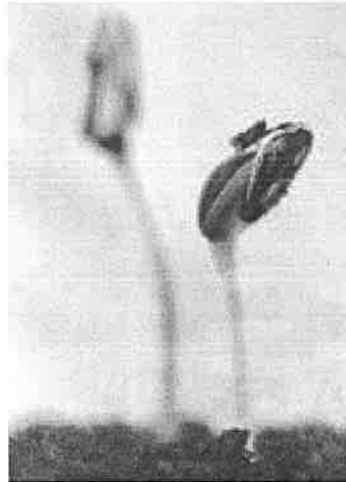
Return by _____

Student's Name

Name _____ Date _____

Read the introduction and the article "Roots & Shoots" before answering Numbers 11 through 15.

Tamara wrote this article about a program to protect earth. Read her article and think about the changes she should make.



Roots & Shoots

(1) Have you ever watched a plant grow? (2) If so, you know that a network of roots holds a plant in the soil, and a tiny, green shoot is the first sign of a new plant's life. (3) Without roots and shoots, plants could not grow.

(4) That's what Jane Goodall imagined when she began the Roots & Shoots program in 1991. (5) Goodall believes that even the most young citizens can help change the world. (6) Through Roots & Shoots, kids learn to spot problems in their communities and think of ways to solve them. (7) Kids, teens, parents, and teachers can all work on service projects together. (8) Special events teach people how to care for earth.

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(9) Young people all around the world are joining Roots & Shoots programs. (10) In some cities, kids are planting trees. (11) In others, they're volunteering at local zoos and animal shelters. (12) One kids are helping to design earth-friendly shopping bags. (13) "No matter how many problemes we face," says a teen volunteer, "there is still hope as long as kids like us continue to care."

Now answer Numbers 11 through 15. Base your answers on the changes Tamara should make.

- 11 What change should be made in sentence 3?
- (A) change *With out* to **Without**
 - (B) add a comma after *roots*
 - (C) change the comma to a period
 - (D) change *plants* to **Plants**
- 12 What change should be made in sentence 4?
- (F) change *That's* to **Thats**
 - (G) change *Jane* to **jane**
 - (H) change *imagined* to **imagined**
 - (I) change *in* to **below**

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Revising and Editing

- 13 What change should be made in sentence 5?
- A change *believes* to **believe**
 - B change *most young* to **youngest**
 - C change *help* to **helping**
 - D change the period to a question mark
- 14 What change should be made in sentence 12?
- F change *One* to **Several**
 - G change *are* to **is**
 - H change *shopping* to **shoping**
 - I change *bags* to **Bags**
- 15 What change should be made in sentence 13?
- A change *problemes* to **problems**
 - B remove the comma after *face*
 - C remove the quotation mark before *there*
 - D change *continue* to **continues**



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Read the introduction and the story "Plan B" before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Marcus wrote this story about his visit to a science museum. Read his story and think about the changes he should make.

Plan B

(1) Plan A, our picnic at the park, was cancelled because of rain. (2) Mom said, "Let's try Plan B." (3) Our family always has a backup plan in case the first plan doesn't work out.

(4) Plan B was a visit to the Barger Science Museum. (5) The museum is one of my favorite places. (6) You can see dinosaur bones, experience what it's like to be an astronaut, and take a make-believe journey through the solar system. (7) There are many other things to do at the museum, too.

(8) Dad and I visited an exhibit and the exhibit made us feel like we were in a fierce windstorm. (9) Later, my sister, Kayla, and I created music that was so good, other museum visitors applauded when they heard it!

(10) Kayla and Mom walked through the museum's butterfly garden. (11) Dad and I watched bees in their glassed-in hive. (12) We also watched a short film about how bees use dancing to communicate.

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(13) "I could spend a whole week at the science museum"
Kayla said on the way home. (14) "I think it should be our Plan
A *and* Plan B all the time!" (15) "That was the better rainy
day ever!" I said.

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on the changes
Marcus should make.

- 6 What is the BEST way to rewrite sentence 8?
- F Dad and I visited an exhibit, made us feel like we were in a fierce windstorm.
 - G Dad and I visited an exhibit that made us feel like we were in a fierce windstorm.
 - H Dad and I visited an exhibit and it make us feel like we were in a fierce windstorm.
 - I Dad and me visited an exhibit and the exhibit made us feel like we were in a fierce windstorm.
- 7 What change should be made in sentence 10?
- A change *Mom* to **mom**
 - B change *walked* to **walk**
 - C change *through* to **during**
 - D change *museums* to **museum's**
- 8 What change should be made in sentence 12?
- F change *watched* to **wached**
 - G change *bees* to **bee's**
 - H change *danceing* to **dancing**
 - I change the period to a question mark

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Revising and Editing

- 9 What change should be made in sentence 13?
- A change *spend* to **spended**
 - B change *whole* to **hole**
 - C add a comma after *museum*
 - D remove the quotation mark after *museum*
- 10 What change should be made in sentence 15?
- F change *was* to **were**
 - G change *better* to **best**
 - H change the exclamation mark to a period
 - I add a quotation mark after *said*

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Reading Complex Text

Read the poem “The Iron Horse” and the article “On Track.” As you read, stop and answer each question. Use evidence from the poem and article to support your answers.

The Iron Horse

I was born in the 1800s,
Even then turning heads.
I cross the land with unmatched speed,
Surpassing all my fellow steed.

But when I come, you barely see,
I sneak around with bended knee,
Then race even with the wind,
And chase the gusts till they disband.

Swifter than a brook can babble,
Where past and present come unraveled,
I leave all memory in a ditch,
And hurtle past without a hitch.

The iron horse is what they call me,
Coal, my food. Wheels, my feet.
I take in young and take in old,
And carry them through the heat and cold.

- 1 Pick a line from the section above that gives you a clue that the “the iron horse” is a train. Explain how this line supports the idea that it is a train.

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From north to south, and east to west,
With rhythms strong and heaving chest,
I lurch around the mountain's back,
Peering up and down the track,
Then neighing loud as I descend,
I settle down among my friends.

2 Who is the narrator of this poem?

On Track

Did you ever think about how many stories, songs, and poems are about trains? You can probably think of a few right now. Given all of the storybooks and songs about trains, somebody might think children were the only people interested in trains.

When trains and railroads first appeared in the United States in the 1800s, they fascinated everybody. They were unlike anything ever seen before. Before trains, the only way to travel across land was on foot or by horse. Neither cars nor airplanes had been invented. A 100-mile journey from New York to Philadelphia, with two horses pulling a carriage, took three days. By train the same trip suddenly took three hours. Trains truly changed the way that people lived.

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Reading Complex Text

3 How did trains change the way that people traveled?

Alongside the story of how railroads changed America is another story. It is the story of who built the railroads and how they did it. Thousands of railroad workers were immigrants. They came from Ireland, China, Mexico, and Japan seeking a better life. Many others were African American. They worked long hours for little pay. They worked in harsh weather and treacherous conditions. They dug tunnels through mountains and under rivers. They built bridges across rivers and gorges. They worked in snow up to their waists and in deserts with little water. Many did not survive the brutal work. But the work did not stop until the railroads crisscrossed the entire country.

Railroads changed both city life and country life. Now you could transport enough food from the country to feed a large city. You could carry enough wood and other supplies to build many houses. Farms also got bigger. Farmers could now transport the food they grew to many people both across the country and around the world. Trains carried the coal to heat the cities, run the factories, and fuel the trains themselves. They still do many of these things today.

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4 Tell one way that the poem compares a train and a horse. Then tell one way that the article compares a train and a horse.

