

Winter Break Packet Language Arts/Reading 2011-2012

The student activities in this packet are designed to reinforce major reading and writing concepts. The questions at the end of the passages are correlated to specific Sunshine State Standards benchmarks. The activities are differentiated by grade level K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. It is also hoped that these activities will encourage family interaction over the winter break. Please note that elementary-level activities will require greater parent/family supervision or assistance. If you are in need of additional information about the Winter Break Packet, please contact the Reading/Language Arts Office at 305 995-3120 or 305-995-3122.

Please note that students should also use online activities for reading from **Beyond the Bell** found at <http://myportal.dadeschools.net/student/>. The online activities are provided as a resource to parents and students.



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Earth



By Sharon Fabien

People have always known about planet Earth. Even the most ancient people knew about Earth. It was what they slept on every night. The trees that they took shelter under grew from the earth. Earth provided plants for their food and animals for them to hunt.

There is one thing that these ancient people didn't know about Earth; they didn't know that Earth is a planet. If someone had told them that Earth floats in space and revolves around the sun, they probably would have just looked at that person like he was crazy.

Common sense told people that Earth was at the center of the universe and that it was standing still. After all, no one could see it move, and no one could feel it move. From all appearances, Earth stood still while other objects in the sky moved around it. Everyone could see that the sun rose in the east every morning and set in the west every evening. The moon traveled across the sky too. Even some stars changed their position in the sky.

Another nice thing about the earth was that it was flat. No one had to worry about falling off the Earth, as they would if they lived on something round like the moon.

By the time of the ancient Greeks, there was some disagreement about all of this, but a famous scientist, Ptolemy, provided the most convincing theory. Ptolemy's theory said that the earth was the center of the universe, and that is what most people continued to believe.

One person who disagreed was Nicolaus Copernicus. Copernicus was an astronomer who lived from 1473 to 1543. He had his own theory about the earth, and he was certain that he was right. Copernicus's theory was that the earth, like all of the other planets, revolves around the sun. He also suggested that the earth rotates on its axis once every day. He couldn't prove his theories, but he used math to show that they were likely to be right. He explained his theories in his book, *On the Revolution of the Heavenly Spheres*.

In the meantime, many people continued to believe that the earth was the center of the universe. In churches, people learned that this is what they should believe.

At the same time too, scientists kept looking for proof. In Italy, Galileo used the new science of physics to try to prove Copernicus's theory. In Germany, Johannes Kepler studied the same problem. Both scientists developed evidence that showed that Copernicus's theory was correct. At the time, people did not want to believe them, but today we know that Copernicus was right.

Still, it is easy to see why people wanted to believe that Earth is the center of the universe. Earth is certainly the most important planet to every one of us. Earth is a unique place. It is the only planet with an atmosphere that provides oxygen to breathe and at the same times protects us from the sun's radiation. It is the only planet with oceans and seas, rivers and streams, and rain. It's the only planet with green plants to produce the oxygen for us to breathe and food for us to eat. It's the only planet with insects, and birds, and fish, and animals. It's the only planet with people. So it's no wonder that the earth seems like the center of the universe. In most ways, to the people who live on Earth, Earth is the center. It's the only place to be. But in another more scientific way, Earth is only one little planet revolving around the sun, along with at least eight other planets.

Then there are all of the other suns in the universe. Many of them have systems of planets revolving around them too. Maybe in one of those systems somewhere, there is another planet with all of the good things -- a planet that seems like the center of the universe to its inhabitants.



Read the article *Earth*. Then read the following multiple choice questions. Circle the BEST answer to each question.

1) Another good title for this article would be:

- a. The Center of the Universe
- b. The Earth is Flat
- c. Ancient Astronomers and their Theories
- d. The Planets

2) Read this sentence from the article:

Earth is a unique place. It is the only planet with an atmosphere that provides oxygen to breathe and at the same time protects us from the sun's radiation.

What does the word *unique* mean?

- a. modern
- b. exclusive
- c. common
- d. familiar

3) How were Galileo and Johannes Kepler alike?

- a. They were both from Italy.
- b. They both believed that Earth was the center of the Universe.
- c. They both developed scientific evidence to prove Copernicus's theory.
- d. They were both astronomers.

4) With which statement would the author most likely agree?

- a. Copernicus did not know how to prove his theory.
- b. Earth seems in many ways the center of our Universe.
- c. Ancient people were not intelligent.
- d. Earth is an ordinary planet.

Answer the following short essay questions:

1) Read the following paragraph from the article *Earth*:

Still, it is easy to see why people wanted to believe that Earth is the center of the universe. Earth is certainly the most important planet to every one of us. Earth is a unique place. It is the only planet with an atmosphere that provides oxygen to breathe and at the same times protects us from the sun's radiation. It is the only planet with oceans and seas, rivers and streams, and rain. It's the only planet with green plants to produce the oxygen for us to breathe and food for us to eat. It's the only planet with insects, and birds, and fish, and animals. It's the only planet with people. So it's no wonder that the earth seems like the center of the universe. In most ways, to the people who live on Earth, Earth is the center. It's the only place to be. But in another more scientific way, Earth is only one little planet revolving around the sun, along with at least eight other planets.

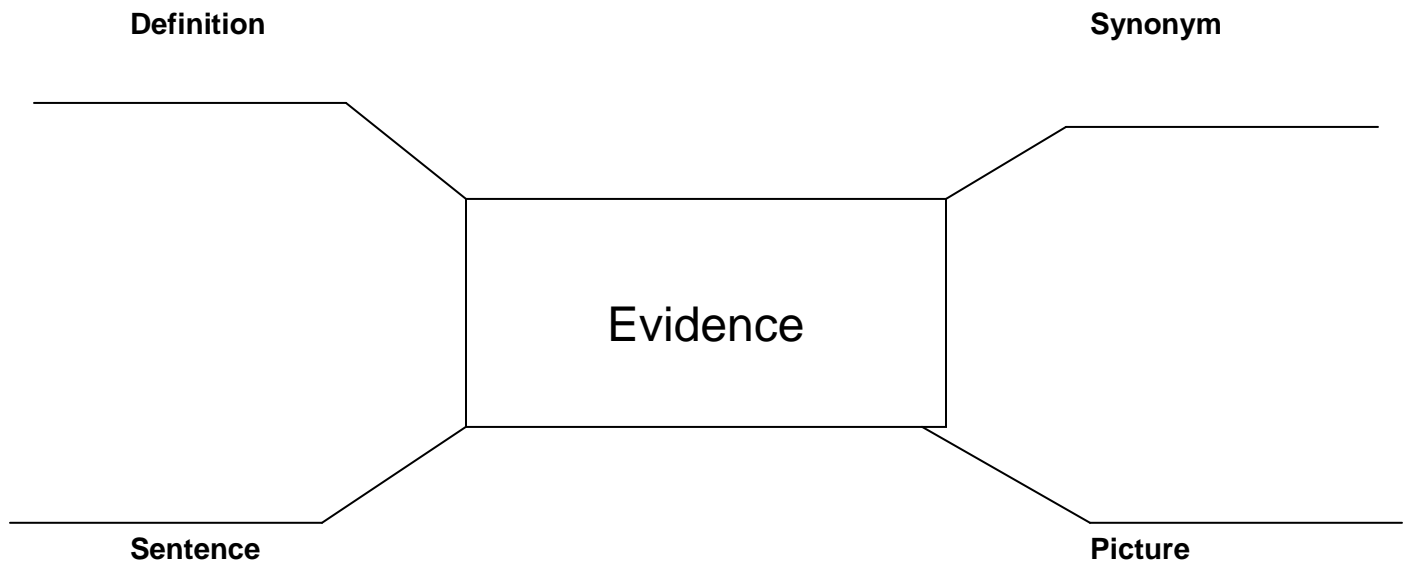
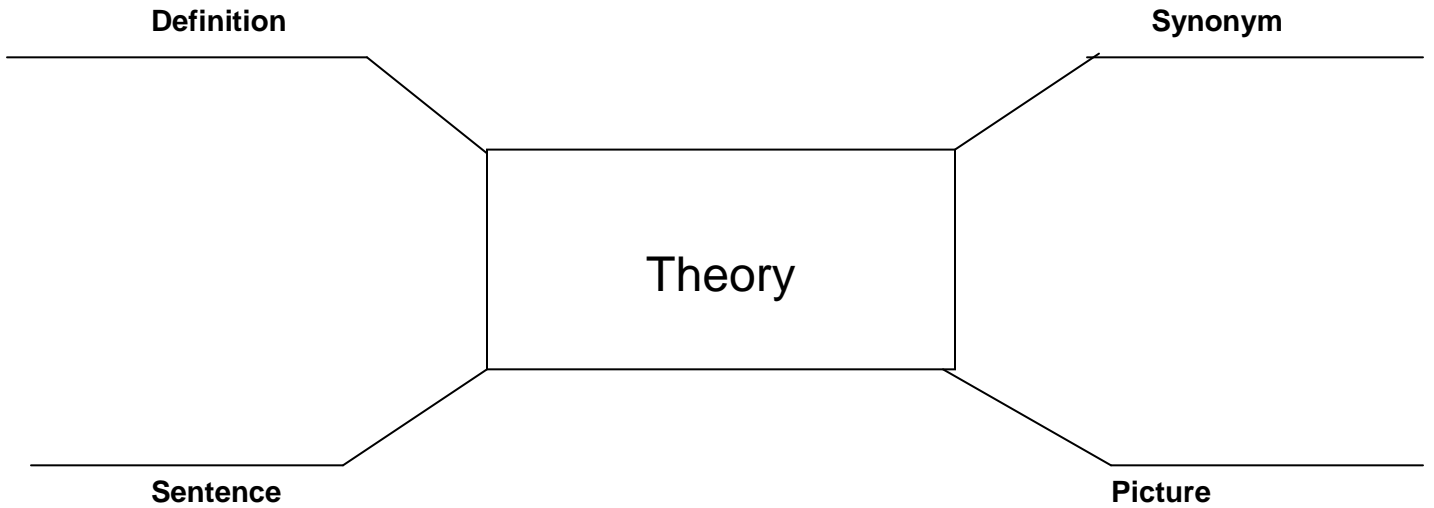
Write a summary of the paragraph.

2) When scientists talked about the center of the universe, they meant the point that everything else revolved around. How is that different from what ancient people believed? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

3) Retell the events following Ptolemy's theory.

Vocabulary Work

1) Complete the following vocabulary maps:



2) Read the article to complete the following word sort:

Irregular Verbs	Regular Verbs
<i>Ex. could</i>	<i>Ex. looked</i>

Extension Activities: Word Chop

Each word has been split into two parts. Put the word parts together and write each word below. Use each word part only once.

Word List					
per	sen	son	like	ition	theo
astron	se	st	led	ea	pos
le	import	ve	tion	on	st
ly	anci	some	ant	un	anding
tist	ue	erse	tain	scien	trave
peop	er	ation	omer	cer	
uniq	pro	cent	radia	iverse	
st	ent	pro	radi	ry	
where	of	we	univ	comm	

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
4. _____	5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____	9. _____
10. _____	11. _____	12. _____
13. _____	14. _____	15. _____
16. _____	17. _____	18. _____
19. _____	20. _____	21. _____
22. _____	23. _____	24. _____

Idioms

Complete.

1. **Once in a blue moon**

My sister lives in Alaska, so I only get to see her once in a blue moon.

What does the idiom **once in a blue moon** mean?

2. **Down-to-earth**

David's very artsy and a bit of a dreamer - Ruth's much more down-to-earth. I like her down-to-earth approach to problem-solving

What does the idiom **down-to-earth** mean?

3. **Go to the ends of the earth**

Some journalists would go to the ends of the earth to get a story

What does the idiom **go to the ends of the earth** mean?

4. **Living on another planet**

He doesn't always make much sense. It's like he's living on another planet half the time.

What does the idiom **living on another planet** mean?

5. **Many moons ago**

I only have the faintest memory of that time. It all happened many moons ago.

What does the idiom **many moons ago** mean?

Technology Links

Scholastic:

<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/index.asp>

Voyager:

<http://www.tickettoread.com/>

Time for Kids:

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/kids/hh/writeideas>

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/kids/news>

NASA Kids Club:

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html>

Geography for Kids:

<http://www.kidsgeo.com/geography-games/>

http://www.unc.edu/~jmaxim/web_geography_for_kids.htm

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Federal and State Laws

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by law:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulates categorical preferences for employment.