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Name_____ Date_____ Class _____

CHAPTER 24 TAKS TEST PREPARATION FOR READING IN SCIENCE

Reading Mini-Test TEKS

Section 1

Read the passage. Then read each question that follows the passage. Decide which is the best answer to each question.

Sunlight hits the Earth's surface differently depending on latitude. It is warmer near the equator because the sunlight tends to hit the Earth's surface more directly than at higher latitudes. Near the equator both the temperature and the amount of daylight stay about the same year-round. At the North and South Poles, it is cooler because the same amount of sunlight is spread over a larger area. This happens because the Earth is round, or curved. The sun's rays hit the Earth's surface at different angles because of the curve of the Earth.

1 In the passage, the word latitude means

- **A** height above the Earth's surface.
- **B** the movement of the Earth.
- **C** a measurement that indicates a place's distance north or south of the equator.
- **D** heat.

2 According to the passage, which of these places would probably be warmer?

- **F** A city at the South Pole
- **G** A city located 200 km north of the equator
- **H** A city located right on the equator
- **J** A city located 400 km south of the equator

3 What is the main idea of the passage?

- **A** All of the sun's rays hit the surface of the Earth at the same angle.
- **B** Because the Earth is round, sunlight warms some areas more than others.
- **C** When people thought the Earth was flat, they did not understand the sun's rays.
- **D** The temperature is generally coldest near the equator.

4 Which is a valid inference from the passage?

- **F** The temperatures at the North and South Poles never change.
- **G** Sunlight looks much better near the equator than at the poles.
- **H** At the equator, the seasons are less extreme than at greater latitudes.
- **J** It is healthiest to live closer to the equator.

STOP

CHAPTER 24

TAKS TEST PREPARATION FOR READING IN SCIENCE

Answer Key and TAKS Doctor for Mini-Tests

Section 1

Answers	TEKS Correlation	TAKS Objectives
1 C	R 7.6A	
2 H	R 7.11A	
3 B	R 7.10F	1
4 H	R 7.10H	4

The following TAKS questions have been diagnosed by the TAKS Doctor. Find out what might be causing your "ailing" answers. The TAKS Doctor will see you now!

Item 1 *asks students to determine the meaning of the word* latitude *in the context of the passage.*

A **Incorrect.** Because the first sentence indicates that latitude affects the way sunlight hits the Earth's surface, it would not make sense for the word *latitude* to mean "height above the Earth's surface."

B **Incorrect.** Although this definition could make sense in the context of the first sentence alone, the rest of the passage makes it clear that *latitude* describes position on the Earth's surface, not its movement.

C **Correct.** The second sentence states that higher latitudes are those which are not as near the equator. Therefore, the reader can infer that *latitude* is a measure of a place's distance north or south of the equator.

D **Incorrect.** The term *latitude* does not mean "heat" and does not make sense in the context of either sentence in which the word *latitude* is used.

Item 4 *asks students to make a valid inference from the passage.*

F **Incorrect.** The passage does state that at the equator the temperatures stay about the same year-round, and that the temperatures at the North and South Poles are cooler, but it does not state that the temperatures at the poles never change.

G **Incorrect.** The passage does not refer to a difference in the way sunlight looks at different locations on the Earth. This inference, therefore, cannot be valid.

H **Correct.** In the third sentence of the passage, it is stated that the temperature and the amount of daylight at the equator stay about the same year-round. From this statement, it can be inferred that the seasons at the equator are not very extreme and that this area's temperatures differ from those at other latititudes.

J **Incorrect.** The passage does not address the health consequences of living close to or far from the equator.