

# Informative / Explanatory Writing with Concrete Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

A Grade 5 informative piece **TEACHES** the reader. Strong informative writing (1) introduces the topic clearly, (2) groups related information into paragraphs (often with headings), (3) develops each point with **FACTS, DEFINITIONS, and CONCRETE DETAILS**, (4) uses domain-specific vocabulary, and (5) ends with a statement that ties the information together.

## PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

### Student draft - How a Honeybee Makes Honey

Honeybees turn flower nectar into honey through a careful, step-by-step process. Worker bees fly from blossom to blossom collecting a sweet liquid called nectar. They store the nectar in a special stomach called the honey stomach, which is separate from the stomach they use to digest food.

Back at the hive, a forager bee passes the nectar mouth-to-mouth to a younger worker. The younger bee chews the nectar for about half an hour. During this time, enzymes in the bee's saliva break the nectar's complex sugars into simpler ones, which is what makes honey easier for bees (and people) to digest.

Next, the bee deposits the chewed nectar into a wax cell of the honeycomb. The nectar is still mostly water at this point, so the bees fan it with their wings until much of the water evaporates. When the honey is thick enough, the bees seal the cell with a wax cap, where it can be stored for months without spoiling.

## PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the student draft below to answer the items.

1. Which sentence is the **BEST** topic sentence for this **INFORMATIVE** piece?
  - A. I think honeybees are the most amazing insects that have ever lived on this planet.
  - B. There are many kinds of bees, including bumblebees, mason bees, and carpenter bees.
  - C. Honeybees turn flower nectar into honey through a careful, step-by-step process.
  - D. One summer afternoon, my uncle and I watched a beekeeper open a hive in his backyard.



2. Which sentence from the draft is a DEFINITION (a word + what it means)?
  - A. Worker bees fly from blossom to blossom collecting a sweet liquid called nectar.
  - B. Back at the hive, a forager bee passes the nectar mouth-to-mouth to a younger worker.
  - C. When the honey is thick enough, the bees seal the cell with a wax cap.
  - D. The bees fan it with their wings until much of the water evaporates.
3. The writer wants to add a CONCRETE DETAIL to paragraph 2 about the chewing step. Which sentence is BEST?
  - A. Bees do many useful things, and chewing nectar is one of them.
  - B. The mouth-to-mouth chewing can pass a single load of nectar through three or four bees before it is finally placed in a cell.
  - C. Honey is delicious on toast, in tea, and on warm biscuits.
  - D. Bees are very interesting little creatures with a lot to teach us.
4. Which transition would BEST connect paragraph 2 to paragraph 3?
  - A. However,
  - B. On the other hand,
  - C. In contrast,
  - D. Once the chewing is done,
5. Which is the BEST DOMAIN-SPECIFIC vocabulary choice for the underlined word in *The bee deposits the chewed nectar into a cell of the honeycomb*?
  - A. a hexagonal wax cell
  - B. a really small space
  - C. a sort of bee container
  - D. a place where the stuff goes
6. Which sentence would be the STRONGEST CONCLUSION for this informative piece?
  - A. There are over 20,000 species of bees in the world, including stingless bees in the tropics.
  - B. I think bees are super cool and people should be much nicer to them all the time.
  - C. From a single drop of nectar to a sealed cell of golden honey, every step depends on careful teamwork inside the hive.
  - D. Honey can be used in cooking, in skin care, and even in some kinds of medicine.
7. Read this sentence from the draft: *The nectar is still mostly water at this point.* Which revision adds a CONCRETE FACT that strengthens the explanation?
  - A. The nectar is still mostly water at this point, like a lot of water.
  - B. The nectar is still mostly water at this point - about 70% water, in fact.
  - C. The nectar is still mostly water at this point, which is something I learned recently.
  - D. The nectar is still mostly water at this point, and water is very important to all life.



8. Which sentence would NOT belong in this informative piece because it is OPINION rather than fact?
- A. The honey stomach is separate from the bee's digestive stomach.
  - B. Enzymes in the bee's saliva break complex sugars into simpler ones.
  - C. Sealed honey can be stored in the comb for months without spoiling.
  - D. Honey is the most delicious food a person can ever taste.
9. Write a TOPIC SENTENCE (1 sentence) for an informative paragraph about how something is made or how a process works. Name the SUBJECT and the FOCUS.

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10. Write ONE sentence that DEFINES a word (term + definition) you would use in your topic above.

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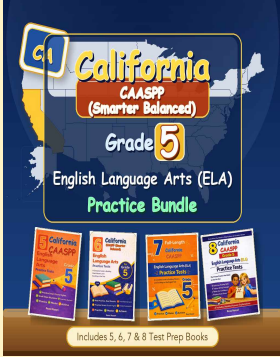
# Answer Keys

<p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p>	<p>6 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>10 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p>
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Explanations	
<b>1. C</b>	C names the SUBJECT (honeybees) and the FOCUS (the step-by-step process of making honey) - exactly what the piece will explain. A is opinion. B is too broad. D is a personal narrative opening.
<b>2. A</b>	A introduces the term <i>nectar</i> and immediately defines it as a sweet liquid - the textbook definition pattern. B, C, and D describe actions but do not define a term.
<b>3. B</b>	B adds a SPECIFIC, on-topic fact about the chewing step (three or four bees per load). A is filler. C is off-topic (uses for honey). D is general praise, not a detail.
<b>4. D</b>	Paragraph 3 describes the NEXT STEP in the process, so a time/sequence transition fits. <i>However</i> , <i>On the other hand</i> , and <i>In contrast</i> all signal opposition, but the paragraphs do not contrast - they continue.
<b>5. A</b>	A uses precise, science-class vocabulary ( <i>hexagonal wax cell</i> ) - perfect for an informative piece. B, C, and D replace a precise term with vague everyday language.
<b>6. C</b>	C ties together the steps the piece just explained (from nectar to sealed cell) and names the underlying idea (teamwork). B is opinion. A is an off-topic new fact. D opens a brand-new topic (uses of honey) at the end.
<b>7. B</b>	B adds a SPECIFIC measurable fact (about 70% water) that explains WHY the bees must fan it. A repeats the original. C adds a personal aside. D drifts into a general statement about water.
<b>8. D</b>	D uses a sweeping judgment (the most delicious) that cannot be verified. A, B, and C are all factual statements that match an informative purpose.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Answer:</b> Examples: (1) A volcano forms in three main stages, beginning deep inside the Earth's crust. (2) Cheese is made by turning ordinary milk into a solid food through four careful steps. (3) Rain develops when warm, moist air rises, cools, and releases the water it has been carrying. Accept any single sentence that (a) names a topic to be explained and (b) signals a focus or structure (steps, parts, stages, reasons). NOT acceptable: a personal narrative opening, a question, or an opinion.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Answer:</b> Examples: (1) Magma is melted rock that sits beneath the Earth's surface, where it is too hot to harden. (2) Curds are the soft, white lumps that form when milk separates during cheesemaking. (3) Condensation is the process by which a gas cools and turns back into a liquid. Accept any sentence that (a) names a TERM and (b) gives a clear, accurate definition of it. NOT acceptable: a sentence that only uses the term in context, or a sentence that gives an example without defining the word.



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