Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy SkillsTM 6th Edition

DIBELS®

Fourth Grade Scoring Booklet DIBELS® Benchmark Assessment

Edited By:
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Dynamic Measurement Group, Inc.

Available: http://dibels.uoregon.edu/

Instructions:

This packet includes 2 parts: the student response form and student stimulus materials. The student response forms are photocopied back to back and saddle stapled. The same form is used by each student for each benchmark assessment throughout the year. The second part is the reusable student stimulus materials. Make one copy for each person who is doing the benchmark testing. They can be laminated and comb bound for reuse.

Good, R. H., & Kaminski, R. A. (Eds.). (2002). <u>Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills</u> (6th ed.). Eugene, OR: Institute for the Development of Educational Achievement. Available: http://dibels.uoregon.edu/.

DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency Short Form Directions

Make sure you have reviewed the long form of the directions in the *DIBELS Administration and Scoring Guide* and have them available. Say these specific directions to the student:

Please read this (point) out loud. If you get stuck, I will tell you the word so you can keep reading. When I say, "stop" I may ask you to tell me about what you read, so do your best reading. Start here (point to the first word of the passage). Begin.

Start your stopwatch when the student says the first word of the passage.

At the end of <u>1 minute</u>, place a bracket (]) after the last word provided by the student, stop and reset the stopwatch, and say,

Stop. (remove the passage)

If the student reads more than 10 words correct, proceed with the retell part. Say,

Please tell me all about what you just read. Try to tell me everything you can. Begin. Start your stopwatch after you say "begin."

The first time the student does not say anything for 3 seconds, say "Try to tell me everything you can." This prompt can be used only once.

If the student does not say anything or gets off track for 5 seconds, circle the total number of words in the student's retell and say, "Stop."

At the end of <u>1 minute</u>, circle the total number of words in the student's retell and say, "Stop."

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy SkillsTM 6th Ed. University of Oregon Fourth Grade Benchmark Assessment

Name:	Teacher:
School: _	District:

	Benchmark 1 Beginning/Fall	Benchmark 2 Middle/Winter	Benchmark 3 End/Spring
Date			
DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency	(middle score)	(middle score)	(middle score)
Retell Fluency (Optional)	(middle score)	(middle score)	(middle score)

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Revised: 5/13/06

Benchmark 3.3 (Continued) DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

beauty and poetry."	31
science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but is somewhat	308
science. As she said, "We especially need imagination in	67
world. She inspired many young women to seek careers in	.87
Maria Mitchell served as an example to women around the	.L7
her life.	.97
where she continued teaching and researching until the end of	97
eventually became a professor of astronomy at Vassar College	52
She Reached for the Stars (Continued)	

Total:_

 Ketell:

Retell Total:

Notes:

Benchmark 1.1 DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

into vapor, or steam. At that point, the water is said to evaporate,
in rivers, lakes, and oceans. The heat turns some of the water
called evaporation. This occurs when the sun heats up the water
The water cycle has four main phases. The first phase is
known as the water cycle.
amount of water that keeps going around and around in what is
to drink, shower, or swim in is very old. The earth has a fixed
the water you drank last night. That is because the water you use
It is amazing to think that a dinosaur might have stepped in
The Water Cycle

The next phase of the water cycle is called condensation. Water vapor in the air becomes cold, which causes it to change back into liquid form. The drops of water come together and form clouds. When the water becomes so heavy that the air cannot hold it any more, the next phase occurs. In the phase of the water cycle called precipitation, dark clouds release their water, and it falls back to the earth. In warm clouds release their water, and it falls back to the earth. In warm

as it becomes part of the air.

clouds release their water, and it falls back to the earth. In warm weather, clouds release water in the form of rain or hail. When it is cold, water falls as snow or sleet. The rain, hail, snow, or sleet falls on land as well as on rivers, lakes, and oceans. This begins the final phase of the water cycle, called collection.

When water falls on land, the earth collects it. The water

might run along the ground, where plants and animals may drink it. It might flow into rivers, streams, or lakes. Or the water might soak deep into the earth and become groundwater. Groundwater

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Benchmark 3.3 DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

She Reached for the Stars

Two hundred years ago when Maria Mitchell was born, most girls did not get a formal education. Instead, they learned how to cook, sew, and run a house. Boys, on the other hand, went to school to learn about math and science. Because there were few educated women, people took notice of them. Maria Mitchell was one such woman.

Maria Mitchell was born on Nantucket Island. She was lucky to have been born in this whaling village. Women were expected to be independent while the men were at sea. Maria was lucky in another way. Her father believed girls should be educated. He encouraged Maria's interest in astronomy.

Maria took a teaching job when she was sixteen years old.

Then, two years later, she became a librarian. This job was

perfect for her. She earned a good salary and had time to read the

books that interested her.

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One night, Maria was looking through her father's telescope. 157
She enjoyed her time on the roof, studying the planets and stars. 169
On this night, she noticed a new star. She watched it for several 182
nights. Soon she decided it was not a star at all. It was a comet! 197
The king of Denmark, who offered gold medals to those who 208
discovered comets, heard of Maria's work. She was awarded a 218
medal, and the comet was named "Miss Mitchell's Comet." 227

By this time, Maria had become well known. She traveled widely and worked with scientists around the world. She

Benchmark 1.1 (Continued) DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

The Water Cycle (Continued)

supports plants, which sink their roots down to find it. Human
beings dig wells or use water from underground springs to
provide for their needs.

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Water that falls on rivers and streams flows, sometimes for thousands of miles, into the oceans. When the sun shines on rivers, lakes, or oceans, some of the water turns into vapor. This vapor goes into the air, and the water cycle begins again. 348

Total:____

Retell:

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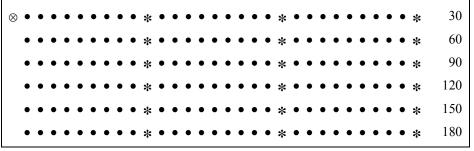
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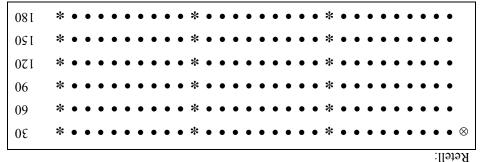


Retell Total:

Notes:

DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency Benchmark 3.2 (Continued)

Total: to worry about wearing a rain Jacket. 348 day's activity. And unless the weather changed, I wouldn't have 341 Suddenly, I was excited and looking forward to the next 331 Maid of the Mist (Continued)



Retell Total:

DIBELS[®] Oral Reading Fluency Benchmark 1.2

176	Hardy plants spring into growth. Only fast-growing plants can
911	rise. The snow melts, and a thin layer of topsoil begins to thaw.
103	Then, for a short time, the sun shines brightly. Temperatures
86	dark winter.
16	The earth lies frozen under a thin layer of snow during the long,
8 <i>L</i>	cold. Dry, icy winds strip moisture from everything they touch.
89	North Pole. For up to ten months each year, this land is bitterly
SS	The arctic tundra is a barren and treeless land just below the
£Þ	called the arctic tundra.
6ξ	is very cold, and for part of the year, it is wet and soggy. It is
73	sandy place. There is another kind of desert, though. This desert
15	When you hear the word desert, you probably think of a hot,
	The Land at the Top of the World

many insects. Mosquitoes and flies swarm busily, looking for an bogs. The standing water provides a perfect breeding ground for subsoil. It runs off into shallow streams or stands in pools and The water from melting snow cannot soak into the frozen great changes in temperature.

low to the ground. They can stand up to gusting winds as well as

plants found in the tundra during summer. These plants grow

weeks. Cotton grass, cushion plants, mosses, and lichens are

survive here, since the growing season lasts a short six to ten

animal on which to feast.

rabbits, and lemmings. roam there. They feed on plant eaters, such as caribou, snowshoe bears, arctic foxes, and wolves are among the predators who many animals move onto the tundra in search of food. Polar The insects do not have to look very far. During summer,

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Benchmark 3.2 DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

Maid of the Mist

Every year, my family begins planning our vacation during the cold days of winter. We pick a spot that everyone agrees on. Then we spend many pleasant evenings figuring out all the details, so we'll be ready to go when summer rolls around.

Last year we had one of our best vacations ever. We went to Niagara Falls, an amazing natural wonder. As usual, we had planned our trip in advance. One thing we all agreed on was that we wanted to take a ride on the Maid of the Mist, a large boat that takes passengers very near the falls.

After we bought our tickets, we waited on the dock for the boat. It was a short wait, and soon we were climbing aboard. The workers on the boat gave each of us a blue rain jacket, even though there was not a cloud in the sky.

"You'd better slip this on," one of the workers said. "Without it, the spray from the falls will have you soaking wet in no time."

The boat's large engines roared to life, and we pulled away from the dock. Before long, though, we couldn't hear the engines, because the roar of the water rushing over the falls was so loud! A heavy mist of water sprayed out from the falls, and we were grateful for the rain jackets. Still, water was dripping from my nose and covering every surface of the boat. I was glad we had planned in advance, because Dad knew to bring along a waterproof camera. Otherwise, there would have been no pictures for the scrapbook.

In all, the ride took about thirty minutes, which didn't seem quite long enough. I could have stayed, looking at those falls, for hours.

hours. 291

"We'll have another chance to see the falls tomorrow," Mom 301
reminded me. "We'll take the cable car ride and see the falls 313
from the top instead of from the bottom." 321

Benchmark 1.2 (Continued) DIBELS[®] Oral Reading Fluency

The Land at the Top of the World (Continued)

All too soon, the days shorten and temperatures begin to 278 drop. Animals begin to move to the south. The long arctic winter 290 will soon cover the tundra once again in snow and darkness. 301

Total:

Retell:

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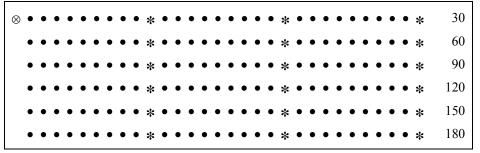
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Retell Total:

Notes:

Benchmark 3.1 (Continued) DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

station right on schedule.
jumped on Jennie and made up for lost time, arriving at the next
pack, I was relieved to find the letters were still dry. I quickly
I thanked the man, and we parted ways. Checking inside the
The Youngest Rider (Continued)

Retell:

180	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
120	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
150	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
06	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
09	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
30	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\otimes

Retell Total:_

Total:

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BELS[®] Oral Reading Fluency

Georgia O'Keeffe

"My first memory is of the brightness of light." These are the words of Georgia O'Keeffe, a well-loved artist. She was describing a day many years earlier, before she was even a year old. Her mother had carried Georgia outdoors and placed her on a brightly colored quilt on the ground. Georgia recalled the patterns on the quilt amid the brightness of the white pillows surrounding her. Clearly, from the start, Georgia was drawn to the beauty around her.

Georgia was born over one hundred years ago and grew up

on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. At that time, girls often were not educated. That was not the case in Georgia's family, though. Georgia began school when she was only four years old. She attended the same one-room school her parents had attended. Georgia's mother noticed her child's interest in art. Back then, art was not taught in school, so Georgia's mother paid for private art lessons.

After high school, Georgia studied art in Chicago and New York. Then, leaving art school behind, she began to work. One of her first jobs after graduating was teaching art at a college in the Texas Panhandle. She loved the land there. In fact, she made fifty paintings of the nearby canyons and prairies.

Although she loved the West, Georgia decided to go back to

New York. There, she painted pictures of large flowers and tall buildings. Many people admired her art. One admirer was a famous gallery owner. The two spent a lot of time working together and became close. After a while, they married. They were a happy couple, but Georgia was drawn back to the West. She tried to spend a few months each year visiting and painting in the West.

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Benchmark 3.1 DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

The Youngest Rider

My name is Charlie, and I am the youngest rider on the Pony Express. The other riders call me Young Boy Charlie, because I am only twelve years old, but I have been riding for nearly ten months now, through the blistering heat and freezing cold. I ride six or more hours each day, changing horses every hour. I must tell you that yesterday was my most exciting day yet.

I was riding my favorite horse, Jennie, an excellent pinto and my last horse of the day. We were crossing a swift stream, when my horse spotted a mountain lion. Jennie reared up in fright, nearly knocking me off. Fortunately, that scared the mountain lion away.

I regained my balance, but the leather pack I was carrying fell into the stream. That pack holds all the mail, and it is my job to pass it to the next rider. I jumped off Jennie and ran down the bank, looking for the pack. I worried that the swift water had carried it away. Suddenly, a tall man appeared in front of me, holding my bag! I felt nervous, because I had heard stories about attacks on riders.

I said, "Hello, I'm Charlie, and I believe that is my bag."

Laughing, he said, "Aren't you a little young for a rider?"

The remark annoyed me, but I was accustomed to being

teased. I responded, "I am nearly thirteen, and I am good enough
to ride any horse in the west."

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Again, he laughed loudly and then handed me the pack. 258 "Well, good luck to you then," he said. 266

Benchmark 1.3 (Continued) DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

Georgia O'Keeffe (Continued)

When Georgia's husband died and she was no longer tied to
New York, she moved to New Mexico. Her paintings of the
mountains and desert show the artist's respect for the beauty of
the land. She lived there, continuing to work and paint, until she
was quite old.

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Total:____

Retell:

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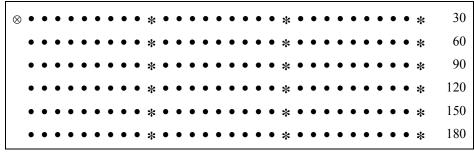
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Retell Total:

Notes:

$\frac{\text{Benchmark 2.3 (Continued)}}{\text{DIBELS}^{\circledast} \text{ Oral Reading Fluency}}$

	Total:
326	all.
358	the party he planned, but it turned out to be a terrific party after
344	surface and the clouds move across the sky. This had not been
337	Carlos watched the raindrops splash against the pool's
324	followed by Carlos's favorite carrot cake.
318	new game. Later, they ate a delicious lunch of sandwiches,
308	The friends hardly noticed the rain as they enjoyed Carlos's
867	can't swim, we can have fun playing this game."
687	"This is great," Carlos exclaimed, "because even though we
	The Tenth Birthday Party (Continued)

Retell:

180	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
120	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
170	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
06	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
09	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
30	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\otimes

Retell Total:_

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$\frac{\underline{Benchmark\ 2.1}}{DIBELS^{@}\ Oral\ Reading\ Fluency}$

The Lion and the Mouse

770	ləəri king Lion was free!
797	opes holding the lion down. One by one, the ropes fell away,
727	Using his large, strong teeth, Mouse began chewing the thick
747	"Please, try to help me, Mouse" King Lion cried.
233	y a hunter's net.
575	Creeping forward, Mouse saw that King Lion had been captured
617	is Mouse was searching for food, he heard a terrible noise.
807	right. Days passed, and life got back to normal. The next week,
961	Mouse scampered home, and he eventually got over his
18J	uch a suggestion. I will grant you your freedom."
87 I	ne," the lion said, "but you have entertained me by even making
991	King Lion roared with laughter. "You could never repay
LSI	vill repay you for your good deed."
120	"Please let me go," Mouse stuttered. "If you do, I promise I
138	Mouse was terrified and begged for his life to be spared.
171	norsel, King Lion put his enormous paw on top of Mouse. Poor
112	notice King Lion walking past. Considering the animal a tasty
102	One day Mouse was busy searching for peanuts and didn't
\$6	.noiJ gni∑
86	afraid. He would scurry into his burrow at the mere sight of
08	of his way. Among these, Mouse was probably the most timid
69	King Lion roared. Small animals, in particular, tried to keep out
85	jerce that even the courageous elephants trembled in fear when
81⁄2	King Lion ruled over all the jungle creatures. He was so
Lε	erocious King Lion.
34	riends. In fact, most of the animals were terrified by the
73	peak to one another. This did not necessarily mean they were all
П	Long, long ago, in a faraway place, the jungle animals could

Benchmark 2.3 DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

The Tenth Birthday Party	
For his tenth birthday, Carlos wanted to have a party at the	12
neighborhood pool. Together, he and his mother made	20
invitations for the party so that Carlos could send one to each of	33
his friends.	35
On the morning of his birthday, Carlos ran outside to check	46
the weather and was relieved to see a bright blue sky. His mother	59
said, "Well, it looks like a perfect day for a swimming party.	71
Now let's have breakfast, and then we'll get everything ready to	82
take to the pool."	86
As Carlos and his mother drove to the pool, Carlos noticed	97
some dark clouds forming in the sky. "Oh, I hope it isn't going	110
to storm," he said, remembering that lifeguards always closed	119
the pool when there was lightning in the area.	128
Huge drops of rain splattered against the car's windshield as	138
Carlos and his mom pulled into the parking lot. As he stepped	150
out of the car, Carlos heard a clap of thunder and then the	163
lifeguard's whistle.	165
"Everybody out of the pool!" the lifeguard yelled.	173
Carlos's mother gave him a hug and said, "I am so sorry that	186
the weather hasn't cooperated with us. I know how much you	197
were looking forward to swimming."	202
Then Carlos saw his friends gathered under the awning of the	213
pool building. When they spotted Carlos, the friends clapped	222
loudly and began to sing happy birthday. Carlos ran to greet his	234
friends and was surprised to find a table covered with good	245
things to eat and some brightly wrapped presents.	253
"Why don't you open this one right away," said Carlos's	263
friend Molly.	265
Carlos opened the brightly wrapped present and found the	274
board game he had been wanting.	280

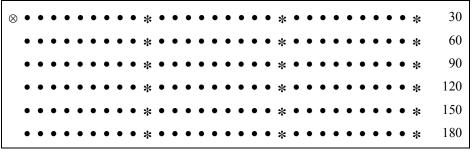
Benchmark 2.1 (Continued) DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

The Lion and the Mouse (Continued)

"You have saved my life," King Lion said to Mouse. "We	281
will be friends forever."	285
King Lion gained a good friend and learned that small	295
friends can be excellent friends.	300

Total:

Retell:



Retell Total:

Notes:

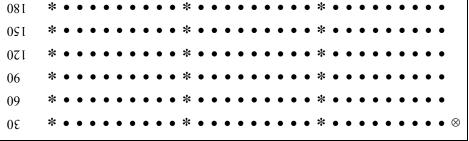
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Benchmark 2.2 (Continued) DIBELS® Oral Reading Fluency

Airplane History (Continued)

carry manufactured goods from one city or country to another. This makes it possible for people to find products from all parts of the world in their local stores. Airplanes have truly changed not only the way people travel, but the way people live.

Retell:



Retell Total:_

Total:

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Notes:

BELS® Oral Reading Fluency

Airplane History Airplane History sa gnol

For as long as people have watched birds swirl through the air, they have longed to fly. Long ago, people would try to fly by acting like birds. They would build wings, tie them onto their arms, and then jump from a high point, flapping the wings. Sadly, this process never worked. Later, people had success in using hot-air balloons to rise into the air. There was a problem, though. The balloon went wherever the winds blew it, and the pilot had little or no control.

One hundred years ago, two brothers, Wilbur and Orville

Wright, built a small, light airplane powered by a gas engine. For several years, the brothers had worked on gliding airplanes. They practiced flying in these until they were ready to test the powered skills. Finally, they knew they were ready to test the powered airplane. Sure enough, their first attempt was a success. Wilbur Wright flew more than one hundred feet in just twelve seconds. Uster the same day, his brother, Orville Wright, stayed in the air for almost a whole minute, flying more than eight hundred feet. Finally, humans had achieved the dream of powered, controlled flight.

Soon others were building powered airplanes. These early airplanes were noisy, low-flying machines made of wood and cloth. Pilots sat in the open, without protection from the wind or the weather. There were no airports, so airplanes had to take off and land in fields and pastures. Pilots didn't have maps to tell them where to go. Rather, they relied on direction signals painted on barn roofs.

Since those days, airplanes have changed in dramatic ways.

Today, huge, jet-powered airplanes transport people in air-conditioned comfort quickly from place to place. Airplanes also

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Fourth Grade Student Materials DIBELS® Benchmark Assessment

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Revised: 5/13/06

The Water Cycle

It is amazing to think that a dinosaur might have stepped in the water you drank last night. That is because the water you use to drink, shower, or swim in is very old. The earth has a fixed amount of water that keeps going around and around in what is known as the water cycle.

The water cycle has four main phases. The first phase is called evaporation. This occurs when the sun heats up the water in rivers, lakes, and oceans. The heat turns some of the water into vapor, or steam. At that point, the water is said to evaporate, as it becomes part of the air.

The next phase of the water cycle is called condensation. Water vapor in the air becomes cold, which causes it to change back into liquid form. The drops of water come together and form clouds. When the water becomes so heavy that the air cannot hold it any more, the next phase occurs.

In the phase of the water cycle called precipitation, dark clouds release their water, and it falls back to the earth. In warm weather, clouds release water in the form of rain or hail. When it is cold, water falls as snow or sleet. The rain, hail, snow, or sleet falls on land as well as on rivers, lakes, and oceans. This begins the final phase of the water cycle, called collection.

When water falls on land, the earth collects it. The water might run along the ground, where plants and animals may drink it. It might flow into rivers, streams, or lakes. Or the water might soak deep into the earth and become groundwater. Groundwater supports plants, which sink their roots down to find it. Human beings dig wells or use water from underground springs to provide for their needs.

Water that falls on rivers and streams flows, sometimes for thousands of miles, into the oceans. When the sun shines on rivers, lakes, or oceans, some of the water turns into vapor. This vapor goes into the air, and the water cycle begins again.

The Land at the Top of the World

When you hear the word desert, you probably think of a hot, sandy place. There is another kind of desert, though. This desert is very cold, and for part of the year, it is wet and soggy. It is called the arctic tundra.

The arctic tundra is a barren and treeless land just below the North Pole. For up to ten months each year, this land is bitterly cold. Dry, icy winds strip moisture from everything they touch. The earth lies frozen under a thin layer of snow during the long, dark winter.

Then, for a short time, the sun shines brightly. Temperatures rise. The snow melts, and a thin layer of topsoil begins to thaw. Hardy plants spring into growth. Only fast-growing plants can survive here, since the growing season lasts a short six to ten weeks. Cotton grass, cushion plants, mosses, and lichens are plants found in the tundra during summer. These plants grow low to the ground. They can stand up to gusting winds as well as great changes in temperature.

The water from melting snow cannot soak into the frozen subsoil. It runs off into shallow streams or stands in pools and bogs. The standing water provides a perfect breeding ground for many insects. Mosquitoes and flies swarm busily, looking for an animal on which to feast.

The insects do not have to look very far. During summer, many animals move onto the tundra in search of food. Polar bears, arctic foxes, and wolves are among the predators who roam there. They feed on plant eaters, such as caribou, snowshoe rabbits, and lemmings.

All too soon, the days shorten and temperatures begin to drop. Animals begin to move to the south. The long arctic winter will soon cover the tundra once again in snow and darkness.

Georgia O'Keeffe

"My first memory is of the brightness of light." These are the words of Georgia O'Keeffe, a well-loved artist. She was describing a day many years earlier, before she was even a year old. Her mother had carried Georgia outdoors and placed her on a brightly colored quilt on the ground. Georgia recalled the patterns on the quilt amid the brightness of the white pillows surrounding her. Clearly, from the start, Georgia was drawn to the beauty around her.

Georgia was born over one hundred years ago and grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. At that time, girls often were not educated. That was not the case in Georgia's family, though. Georgia began school when she was only four years old. She attended the same one-room school her parents had attended. Georgia's mother noticed her child's interest in art. Back then, art was not taught in school, so Georgia's mother paid for private art lessons.

After high school, Georgia studied art in Chicago and New York. Then, leaving art school behind, she began to work. One of her first jobs after graduating was teaching art at a college in the Texas Panhandle. She loved the land there. In fact, she made fifty paintings of the nearby canyons and prairies.

Although she loved the West, Georgia decided to go back to New York. There, she painted pictures of large flowers and tall buildings. Many people admired her art. One admirer was a famous gallery owner. The two spent a lot of time working together and became close. After a while, they married. They were a happy couple, but Georgia was drawn back to the West. She tried to spend a few months each year visiting and painting in the West.

When Georgia's husband died and she was no longer tied to New York, she moved to New Mexico. Her paintings of the mountains and desert show the artist's respect for the beauty of the land. She lived there, continuing to work and paint, until she was quite old.

The Lion and the Mouse

Long, long ago, in a faraway place, the jungle animals could speak to one another. This did not necessarily mean they were all friends. In fact, most of the animals were terrified by the ferocious King Lion.

King Lion ruled over all the jungle creatures. He was so fierce that even the courageous elephants trembled in fear when King Lion roared. Small animals, in particular, tried to keep out of his way. Among these, Mouse was probably the most timid and afraid. He would scurry into his burrow at the mere sight of King Lion.

One day Mouse was busy searching for peanuts and didn't notice King Lion walking past. Considering the animal a tasty morsel, King Lion put his enormous paw on top of Mouse. Poor Mouse was terrified and begged for his life to be spared.

"Please let me go," Mouse stuttered. "If you do, I promise I will repay you for your good deed."

King Lion roared with laughter. "You could never repay me," the lion said, "but you have entertained me by even making such a suggestion. I will grant you your freedom."

Mouse scampered home, and he eventually got over his fright. Days passed, and life got back to normal. The next week, as Mouse was searching for food, he heard a terrible noise. Creeping forward, Mouse saw that King Lion had been captured by a hunter's net.

"Please, try to help me, Mouse" King Lion cried.

Using his large, strong teeth, Mouse began chewing the thick ropes holding the lion down. One by one, the ropes fell away, and soon King Lion was free!

"You have saved my life," King Lion said to Mouse. "We will be friends forever."

King Lion gained a good friend and learned that small friends can be excellent friends.

Airplane History

For as long as people have watched birds swirl through the air, they have longed to fly. Long ago, people would try to fly by acting like birds. They would build wings, tie them onto their arms, and then jump from a high point, flapping the wings. Sadly, this process never worked. Later, people had success in using hot-air balloons to rise into the air. There was a problem, though. The balloon went wherever the winds blew it, and the pilot had little or no control.

One hundred years ago, two brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright, built a small, light airplane powered by a gas engine. For several years, the brothers had worked on gliding airplanes. They practiced flying in these until they were sure of their piloting skills. Finally, they knew they were ready to test the powered airplane. Sure enough, their first attempt was a success. Wilbur Wright flew more than one hundred feet in just twelve seconds. Later the same day, his brother, Orville Wright, stayed in the air for almost a whole minute, flying more than eight hundred feet. Finally, humans had achieved the dream of powered, controlled flight.

Soon others were building powered airplanes. These early airplanes were noisy, low-flying machines made of wood and cloth. Pilots sat in the open, without protection from the wind or the weather. There were no airports, so airplanes had to take off and land in fields and pastures. Pilots didn't have maps to tell them where to go. Rather, they relied on direction signals painted on barn roofs.

Since those days, airplanes have changed in dramatic ways. Today, huge, jet-powered airplanes transport people in airconditioned comfort quickly from place to place. Airplanes also carry manufactured goods from one city or country to another.

This makes it possible for people to find products from all parts of the world in their local stores. Airplanes have truly changed not only the way people travel, but the way people live.

The Tenth Birthday Party

For his tenth birthday, Carlos wanted to have a party at the neighborhood pool. Together, he and his mother made invitations for the party so that Carlos could send one to each of his friends.

On the morning of his birthday, Carlos ran outside to check the weather and was relieved to see a bright blue sky. His mother said, "Well, it looks like a perfect day for a swimming party. Now let's have breakfast, and then we'll get everything ready to take to the pool."

As Carlos and his mother drove to the pool, Carlos noticed some dark clouds forming in the sky. "Oh, I hope it isn't going to storm," he said, remembering that lifeguards always closed the pool when there was lightning in the area.

Huge drops of rain splattered against the car's windshield as Carlos and his mom pulled into the parking lot. As he stepped out of the car, Carlos heard a clap of thunder and then the lifeguard's whistle.

"Everybody out of the pool!" the lifeguard yelled.

Carlos's mother gave him a hug and said, "I am so sorry that the weather hasn't cooperated with us. I know how much you were looking forward to swimming."

Then Carlos saw his friends gathered under the awning of the pool building. When they spotted Carlos, the friends clapped loudly and began to sing happy birthday. Carlos ran to greet his friends and was surprised to find a table covered with good things to eat and some brightly wrapped presents.

"Why don't you open this one right away," said Carlos's friend Molly.

Carlos opened the brightly wrapped present and found the board game he had been wanting.

"This is great," Carlos exclaimed, "because even though we can't swim, we can have fun playing this game."

The friends hardly noticed the rain as they enjoyed Carlos's new game. Later, they ate a delicious lunch of sandwiches, followed by Carlos's favorite carrot cake.

Carlos watched the raindrops splash against the pool's surface and the clouds move across the sky. This had not been the party he planned, but it turned out to be a terrific party after all.

The Youngest Rider

My name is Charlie, and I am the youngest rider on the Pony Express. The other riders call me Young Boy Charlie, because I am only twelve years old, but I have been riding for nearly ten months now, through the blistering heat and freezing cold. I ride six or more hours each day, changing horses every hour. I must tell you that yesterday was my most exciting day yet.

I was riding my favorite horse, Jennie, an excellent pinto and my last horse of the day. We were crossing a swift stream, when my horse spotted a mountain lion. Jennie reared up in fright, nearly knocking me off. Fortunately, that scared the mountain lion away.

I regained my balance, but the leather pack I was carrying fell into the stream. That pack holds all the mail, and it is my job to pass it to the next rider. I jumped off Jennie and ran down the bank, looking for the pack. I worried that the swift water had carried it away. Suddenly, a tall man appeared in front of me, holding my bag! I felt nervous, because I had heard stories about attacks on riders.

I said, "Hello, I'm Charlie, and I believe that is my bag." Laughing, he said, "Aren't you a little young for a rider?"

The remark annoyed me, but I was accustomed to being teased. I responded, "I am nearly thirteen, and I am good enough to ride any horse in the west."

Again, he laughed loudly and then handed me the pack. "Well, good luck to you then," he said.

I thanked the man, and we parted ways. Checking inside the pack, I was relieved to find the letters were still dry. I quickly jumped on Jennie and made up for lost time, arriving at the next station right on schedule.

Maid of the Mist

Every year, my family begins planning our vacation during the cold days of winter. We pick a spot that everyone agrees on. Then we spend many pleasant evenings figuring out all the details, so we'll be ready to go when summer rolls around.

Last year we had one of our best vacations ever. We went to Niagara Falls, an amazing natural wonder. As usual, we had planned our trip in advance. One thing we all agreed on was that we wanted to take a ride on the Maid of the Mist, a large boat that takes passengers very near the falls.

After we bought our tickets, we waited on the dock for the boat. It was a short wait, and soon we were climbing aboard. The workers on the boat gave each of us a blue rain jacket, even though there was not a cloud in the sky.

"You'd better slip this on," one of the workers said. "Without it, the spray from the falls will have you soaking wet in no time."

The boat's large engines roared to life, and we pulled away from the dock. Before long, though, we couldn't hear the engines, because the roar of the water rushing over the falls was so loud! A heavy mist of water sprayed out from the falls, and we were grateful for the rain jackets. Still, water was dripping from my nose and covering every surface of the boat. I was glad we had planned in advance, because Dad knew to bring along a waterproof camera. Otherwise, there would have been no pictures for the scrapbook.

In all, the ride took about thirty minutes, which didn't seem quite long enough. I could have stayed, looking at those falls, for hours.

"We'll have another chance to see the falls tomorrow," Mom reminded me. "We'll take the cable car ride and see the falls from the top instead of from the bottom." Suddenly, I was excited and looking forward to the next day's activity. And unless the weather changed, I wouldn't have to worry about wearing a rain jacket.

She Reached for the Stars

Two hundred years ago when Maria Mitchell was born, most girls did not get a formal education. Instead, they learned how to cook, sew, and run a house. Boys, on the other hand, went to school to learn about math and science. Because there were few educated women, people took notice of them. Maria Mitchell was one such woman.

Maria Mitchell was born on Nantucket Island. She was lucky to have been born in this whaling village. Women were expected to be independent while the men were at sea. Maria was lucky in another way. Her father believed girls should be educated. He encouraged Maria's interest in astronomy.

Maria took a teaching job when she was sixteen years old. Then, two years later, she became a librarian. This job was perfect for her. She earned a good salary and had time to read the books that interested her.

One night, Maria was looking through her father's telescope. She enjoyed her time on the roof, studying the planets and stars. On this night, she noticed a new star. She watched it for several nights. Soon she decided it was not a star at all. It was a comet! The king of Denmark, who offered gold medals to those who discovered comets, heard of Maria's work. She was awarded a medal, and the comet was named "Miss Mitchell's Comet."

By this time, Maria had become well known. She traveled widely and worked with scientists around the world. She eventually became a professor of astronomy at Vassar College where she continued teaching and researching until the end of her life.

Maria Mitchell served as an example to women around the world. She inspired many young women to seek careers in

science. As she said, "We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but is somewhat beauty and poetry."