

Content Spotlight:

Preparing Middle School Students for Testing Season



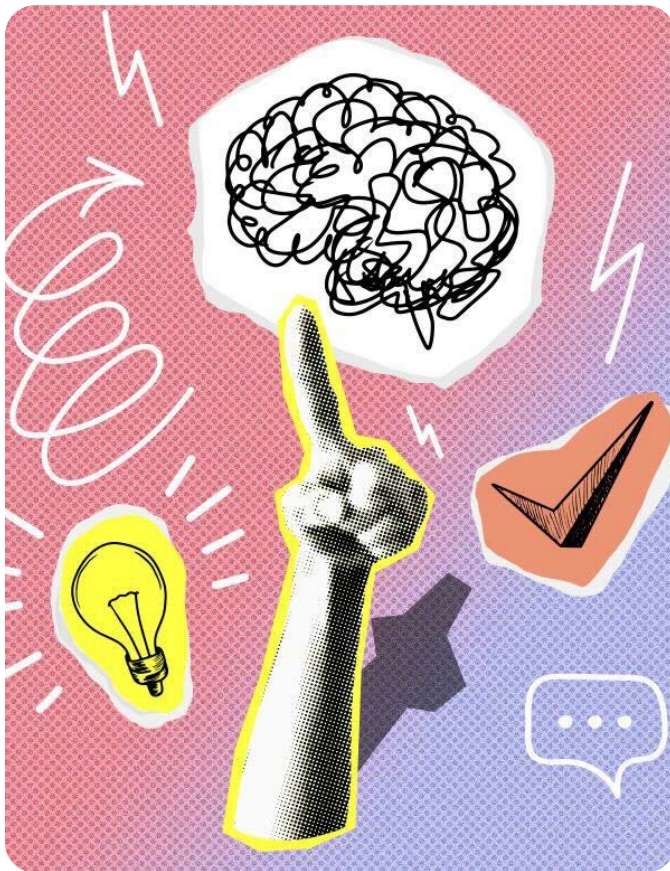
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Standardized testing plays a significant role in education today. Test results influence school ratings, funding, teacher salaries, and the academic and career paths open to students. Nationwide, the stakes are high. When looking at the performance of eighth graders from The Nation's Report Card :

- 30% reach proficiency in reading
- 31% reach proficiency in science
- 14% reach proficiency in U.S. history
- 22% reach proficiency in civics

Check out strategies from Britannica experts on how to prepare students for testing season.

Drive student success by using **Expedition: Learn!** lessons to deliver targeted, standards-aligned practice that improves retention, boosts test-taking confidence, and drives measurable gains in standardized test performance.



These scores reflect content-area deficits along with a cognitive overload due to unfamiliarity with technology-enhanced items (TEIs).

These gaps highlight the importance of preparing students to perform well on assessments while helping them to build deep, lasting knowledge of critical subjects. Access to high-quality curriculum that includes targeted practice utilizing a variety of technology-enhanced items and test-taking skills is a matter of opportunity and educational equity, bridging the digital divide and shaping students' options for advanced coursework, scholarships, graduation pathways, and long-term economic mobility.

Keep the exploration going! Discover these resources and more in Expedition: Learn! on [Teach Britannica](#).



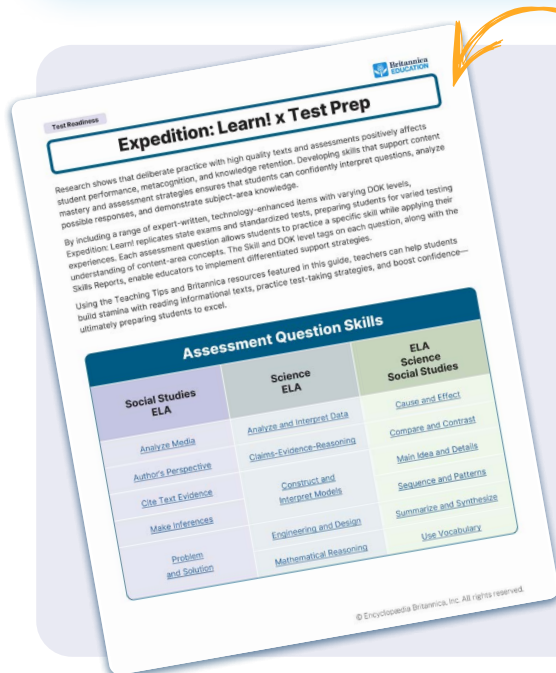
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In Practice

Test Prep for Social Studies, Science, and ELA

The Expedition: Learn! Test Prep Guide provides teachers with practical, classroom-ready guidance for all 16 skills assessed through technology-enhanced items in Expedition: Learn! lessons. Teaching tips and resources specific to each skill are designed to strengthen instruction and boost student performance across ELA, science, and social studies.

Preview some assessment skills below.

Social Studies ELA Cite Text Evidence

Cite Text Evidence questions ask students to cite information and details that relate to the central idea or support a conclusion drawn from the text. Students demonstrate their ability to identify and explain the relevance of key facts. With practice, students can leverage cited evidence to provide and support their own text analysis.

Teaching Tip
Encourage students to underline or highlight exact words that answer the question to keep their evidence focused.

Teach Britannica Resources

Annotated Text

The Sinking of a Warship
The ship was destroyed and destroyed was one of many newspapers to print exaggerated articles about the USS Maine.

Check Answer

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Social Studies and ELA
Practice identifying key information related to a central idea or conclusion.

Science ELA Claims-Evidence-Reasoning

Claims-Evidence-Reasoning questions ask students to analyze connections among evidence, scientific reasoning, and claims and to evaluate examples of evidence and reasoning as support for a specific claim. Students demonstrate their ability to explain how evidence does or does not support an argument. With practice, students develop reasoning processes and can leverage evidence to provide and support their own claims.

Teaching Tip
Remind students that scientific reasoning provides the connection between evidence and a scientific claim. Then have them identify the scientific reasoning that would connect the evidence to the claim in the question.

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Argumentative Writing

Changing the Flow of Water
A dam blocks the natural flow of water and affects the watershed on both sides of it.

Check Answer

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Science and ELA
Analyze evidence and reasoning to support claims and scientific arguments.

ELA Science Social Studies Main Idea and Detail

Main Idea and Detail questions ask students to identify the main idea of a text and explain details that support it. Students demonstrate their ability to determine one or more central ideas in a text and analyze how the details help advance the expressed ideas. With practice, students develop their reading comprehension and deepen their topical knowledge by self-orienting within any text and analyzing it for understanding.

Teaching Tip
Remind students that the main idea will be supported in multiple parts of the text. If only one sentence fits, it's probably a detail, not the main idea.

Check Answer

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Informational Texts

Volume Notes **Paraphrasing** **Summarizing** **Standardized Test Practice**

ELA, Science, and Social Studies
Identify the main idea in informational texts.

Are you ready to check out all the assessment skills?
Download the complete Test Prep Guide!

