



TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

ADMINISTERED
MARCH 2004
GRADE 3

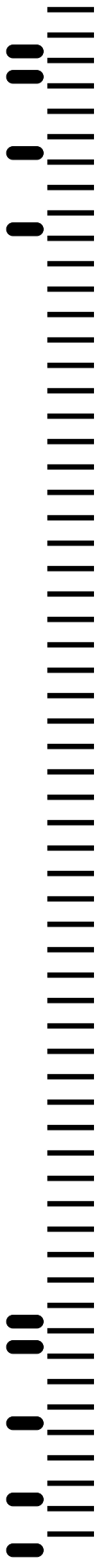
READING

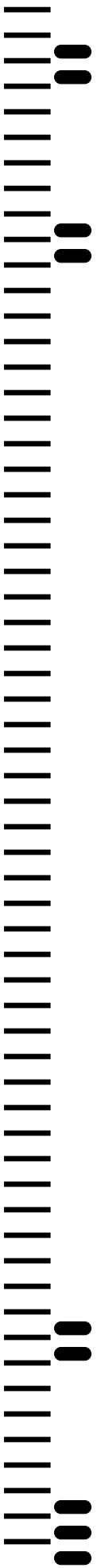
Form with columns for LAST - NAME, FIRST - NAME, and MI. Includes a grid of bubbles for letters A-Z.

Form for student identification including STUDENT-ID, LOCAL-STUDENT-ID, LOCAL USE, AGENCY USE, and SEX CODE.

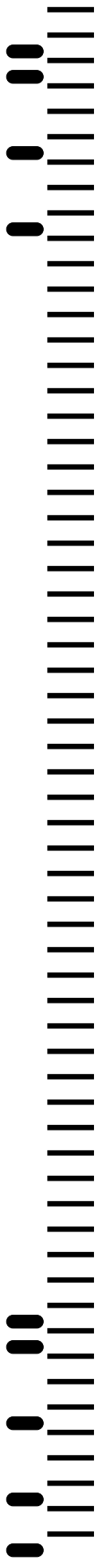
Form for date-of-birth and school use only, including fields for month, day, year, and various student status codes.

If pre-identification barcode label is being used, PLEASE APPLY LABEL HERE.





READING



DIRECTIONS

Read each selection. Then read each question that follows that selection. Decide which is the best answer to each question. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE

A Rabbit Named Sticks

- 1 Lop-Eared Rabbit Village was on the north edge of a forest. The rabbits who lived there were called lop-eared because their ears drooped down around their faces. They were all very proud of their long, floppy ears. One young rabbit in Lop-Eared Rabbit Village was not so happy. His ears were different. They stood straight up. Everyone teased him and called him Sticks.
- 2 “Be proud. Your grandfather had ears just like yours,” his mother often said to him.
- 3 But Sticks didn’t like looking different. He wanted his ears to be long and floppy like everyone else’s.



S-1 In paragraph 1, which word helps the reader know what the word drooped means?

- proud*
- floppy*
- young*
- different*

S-2 What problem does Sticks have in this story?

- His mother doesn’t like his straight ears.
- He wishes that he could be more like his grandfather.
- The other young rabbits in his village are jealous of him.
- He wants to look like the other rabbits in his village.



The Marfa Lights

Roberto wrote the following journal entry about his visit to Marfa, Texas.

August 28, 2001

- 1 Mom, Dad, and I left Kerrville about 7:00 A.M. We were going to spend a few days at Big Bend National Park. Since it is such a long drive, we decided to spend the night in Marfa. After making two stops, we finally reached the town around 3:00 P.M.
- 2 We headed for the Thunderbird Motel to check in. The man there was very friendly. His name was Tom. He told us that we had come at a good time. The Marfa Lights Festival would be the next day. The festival is held each year near the end of summer. Tom said there would be concerts, a parade, lots of food, and games. I was glad we had stopped here. Dad said that even though we had planned to leave early the next day, we could stay for a little while.
- 3 We found our motel room and carried our bags inside. Dad wanted to relax before we walked around. While he and Mom rested, I read my book, *Interesting Places to Visit in Texas*.
- 4 I looked up *Marfa* to see what I could find out about the Marfa lights. I read that the Marfa lights are small lights that appear far off in the distance. Although they are usually white, sometimes the lights appear to be different colors. They seem to float around in the darkness and then disappear. People have seen these lights at night since 1883. There are many guesses about them. Some people say they are spaceships. Others think they are swamp gas. Still others believe they must be car headlights. No one really knows.
- 5 That evening we still had some time before sunset, so we went for a walk. I took a picture of downtown Marfa with the disposable camera Mom had bought me. It's the kind you throw away after the pictures are made. We stopped in a few stores as we walked



The town of Marfa, Texas

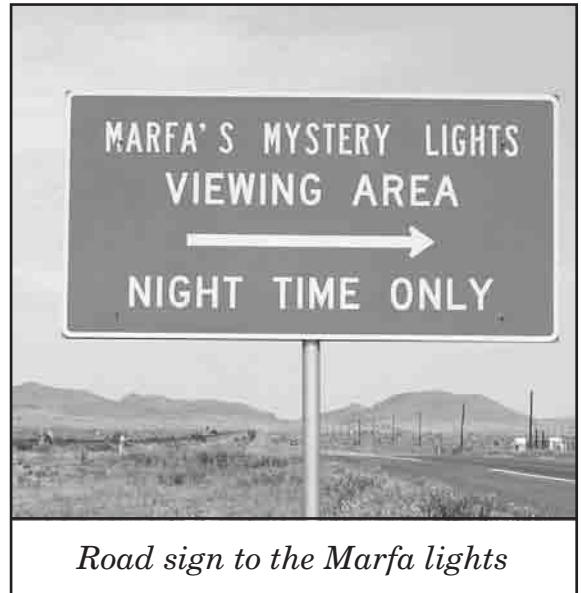
around town. Most of the stores were selling T-shirts and postcards with pictures of the Marfa lights on them. Outside, some people were hanging blinking lights around a stage. Other people were setting up booths in the streets. Workers were shouting to one another and working around the tourists to hang signs. Everyone looked excited and in a hurry. It made me feel the same way. I was ready to see those Marfa lights!

6 After an early dinner we drove to an area about nine miles east of town where the lights can be seen on most nights. A historical marker near there tells of a rancher who saw the lights in 1883. Dad stopped the car to let me take a picture of the sign. The sun was about to set, so we quickly found a place to park.

7 More and more cars pulled up. Many people had come to see the lights and go to the festival. We had been told that the lights would appear in the distance at the bottom of the Chinati Mountains. As the sun went down, we looked for the lights but didn't see anything. I was sitting on the hood of our car and complaining to Dad when a man walked up.

8 The man said he had heard us talking. He said he lived in Marfa. He pointed and told me to look over a fence and between two telephone poles. Then I saw the first light appear! It moved around. Then it disappeared. Another light showed up and did the same thing. I quickly got out my camera and took a picture. By now there was a big crowd of people watching the glowing, dancing lights. The lights reminded me of cotton balls bouncing around. We watched as more and more lights appeared and disappeared. Around midnight the lights finally stopped. We drove back to the motel and fell into our beds.

9 Now I've seen the lights, but I still have no idea what they are. One thing is for sure, though. Whatever they are, the lights have brought a lot of excitement to the town of Marfa.



Photos courtesy of © Robert Halpern.

- 1 Why does Roberto most likely write this journal entry?
- To describe seeing the mysterious lights
 - To tell his friends how to get to Marfa
 - To sell it to a magazine
 - To tell his parents what he saw

- 2 What is the most likely reason that Roberto takes pictures of things in Marfa?
- The man at the motel needs pictures.
 - His parents tell him to take pictures.
 - He wants to see whether his new camera works.
 - He wants to remember what he sees.

- 3 When Roberto learns about the Marfa Lights Festival, he feels —
- pleased that his parents decided to stop in the town
 - angry that he will miss the festival
 - upset that he won't be able to take pictures of the lights
 - hopeful that he will get a festival T-shirt

- 4 The reader can tell that the Marfa lights —
- do not move around
 - have been seen by many people
 - can be seen during the day
 - are only white

5 Read the list below. Then answer the following question.

**Possible Causes of the
Marfa Lights**

- Spaceships
- Swamp gases
- _____

Which of the following best completes the list?

- Cotton balls
- Concerts
- Car headlights
- Cameras

6 Which words from paragraph 5 help the reader know what disposable means?

- throw away*
- around a stage*
- in a hurry*
- before sunset*

7 How do Roberto's parents probably feel after driving in the car to Marfa from Kerrville?

- Satisfied
- Lost
- Pleased
- Tired

- 8 The man at the motel tells Roberto that it is a good time to visit Marfa because —
- it is the only time of the year that the lights can be seen
 - the town is having a festival to celebrate the lights
 - the motel has a room where Roberto's family can stay for the night
 - people in the town are hanging lights on a stage for a concert

- 9 In paragraph 3, which word helps the reader know what relax means?
- carried*
 - found*
 - read*
 - rested*

- 10 When Roberto is waiting to see the Marfa lights, why does a man come to talk to him?
- To show him where to look for the lights
 - To tell him stories about Marfa
 - To help him find his new camera
 - To give him pictures of the Marfa lights

- 11 How does Roberto probably feel when he sees the lights?
- Disappointed
 - Clever
 - Excited
 - Foolish

The Farmer and the Lion

1 A farmer and his wife once lived in the country of Mongolia. Their home was a tent-like house called a *ger*. One day the wife was cleaning the *ger* when she heard her husband calling.

2 “Wife, where are you?” the farmer yelled.

3 The wife continued to tidy the house. As she was cleaning the table, the farmer ran into the *ger* and said, “There is a lion! He is coming toward our house. He looks really hungry. He could eat us in no time at all! What are we going to do?”

4 The wife said to him, “Don’t worry about that lion. Just tell him you are on your way to hunt for big, fat lions for supper.” Then she got out an egg. “Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you.” She whispered in his ear and put the egg into his pocket.

5 The farmer felt better after hearing his wife’s instructions. He told her he would do just what she said.

6 When the farmer walked out of the house, the lion asked, “Where do you think you are going, farmer?”

7 “I am going out to hunt for fat lions like you,” the farmer said.

8 The lion was surprised. “Do you think you can catch a strong lion like me? Ha!” said the lion with a laugh. “You must be crazy! I am much stronger than you. You should not be so foolish!”

9 “Let’s have a contest to see who is stronger,” suggested the farmer. “Whoever is stronger will be the master and command the other.”

10 The lion quickly agreed. “That is fair. What should we do?”

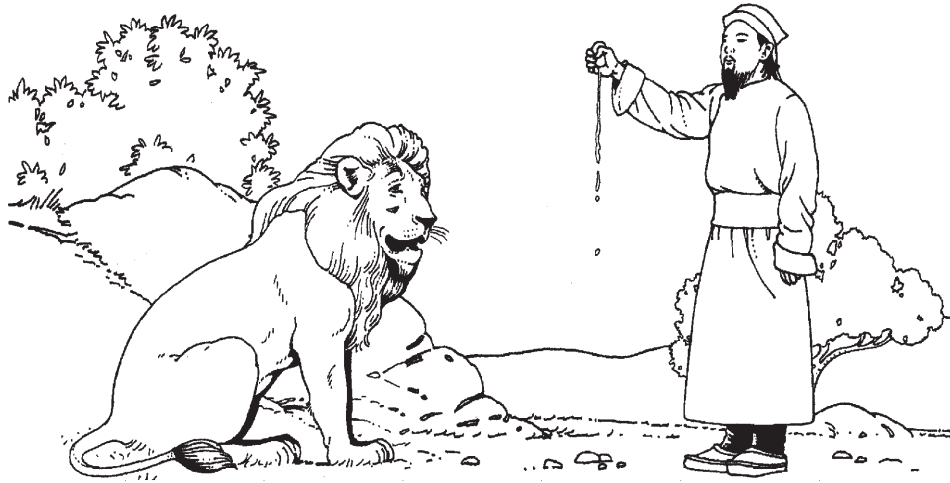
11 The farmer pointed to the ground and said, “Crush that rock over there.”

12 The lion picked up the rock and squashed it into powder. “Now, let’s see what you can do with a rock,” said the lion.

13 As the lion began to look for a rock, the farmer pretended to pick one up from the ground. Instead, he took the egg from his pocket and squeezed it until it cracked. “Oh, my! You have squeezed the rock so hard that the juice has come out of it!” the lion exclaimed.

14 “Yes, I have. And I can do even more with my strength,” said the farmer.

15 The lion had been defeated. Because he did not win the contest, he would have to do everything the farmer told him to do.



16 The next day the farmer was riding on the lion’s back. The farmer told the lion to stop so he could get down. “This is a good tree to get the wood I need to make a bow and some arrows,” the farmer said. The farmer walked over to the branches. He tried to break one from the tree, but he could not even bend it.

17 “Do you need some help, master?” asked the lion.

18 “That would be nice,” said the farmer.

19 As the lion reached for the branches, he asked, “What happened to your strength, farmer?”

20 The farmer quickly answered, "I'm just tired from not sleeping well. Keep working, lion." Then the farmer quietly sneaked off and ran home as fast as he could.

21 The farmer was very upset. "The lion knows! I'm sure he is going to catch both of us," he said to his wife as he kept watching out the window. "I see him! He is on his way here now!"

22 The wife said, "Calm down, husband. There is no reason to worry about that lion."

23 "How can you say that when we are in danger?" questioned the farmer.

24 The wife said, "Listen to me. When the lion gets near the door, ask me what we're eating for supper."

25 As soon as the lion was close enough to hear them talking, the husband asked, "What are we having for supper tonight?"

26 "Your favorite. I am cooking a stew from the lion you killed last night. It will be very tasty," the wife said loud enough for the lion to hear.

27 The lion suddenly became very frightened. He turned and ran away. He hoped that the farmer had not seen him.

28 The farmer and his wife never saw the lion again.

12 The reader can tell that this story is make-believe because —

- the story happens long ago
- the farmer makes his own bow and arrows
- the wife cooks stew
- the lion talks to the farmer

13 The main problem in this story is that the farmer —

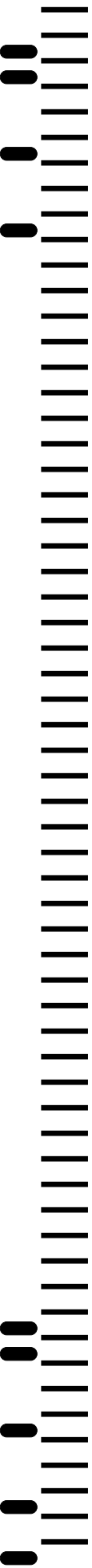
- has grown weak
- is afraid of the lion
- needs a new bow
- can't make lion stew

14 The reader can tell that the farmer thinks his wife is smart because —

- the farmer's wife knows everything about hunting lions
- the farmer learned how to crush rocks from his wife
- the farmer's wife is good at cooking lions for dinner
- he goes to his wife when he doesn't know what to do

15 What happens after the lion learns that the farmer is not really strong?

- The lion smashes a rock into powder.
- The farmer hunts lions with his new bow.
- The farmer runs from the lion.
- The farmer's wife chases the lion away.



16 Paragraphs 13, 14, and 15 are mainly about —

- the farmer cracking an egg
- getting wood for a bow and arrows
- a contest the farmer has with a lion
- the egg the wife puts into the farmer's pocket

17 The lion runs away at the end of the story because he —

- is afraid of the farmer's wife
- is scared when he hears what the farmer is having for supper
- doesn't want to do what the farmer tells him to do anymore
- is chasing his dinner

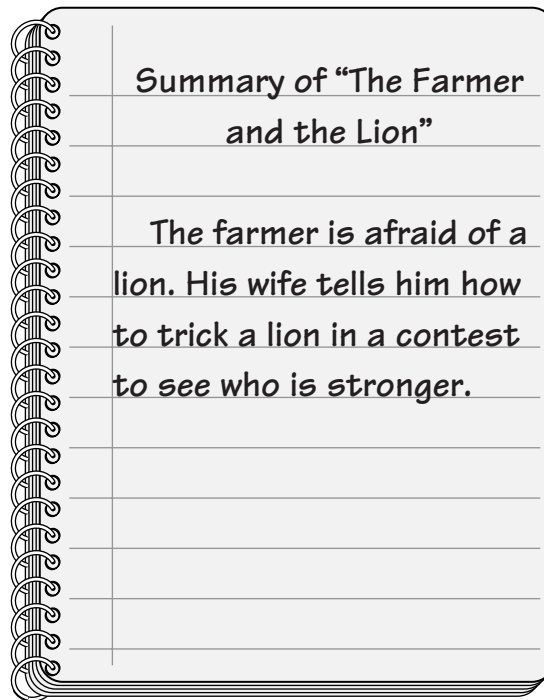
18 Which word from paragraph 3 helps the reader know what tidy means?

- going*
- coming*
- cleaning*
- hungry*

19 In paragraph 5, the word instructions means —

- directions
- thoughts
- feelings
- houses

- 20 A student began the summary below. Read it and answer the question that follows.



Summary of "The Farmer and the Lion"

The farmer is afraid of a lion. His wife tells him how to trick a lion in a contest to see who is stronger.

Which group of sentences best completes the summary above?

- The lion later finds out that the farmer isn't really so strong. When the farmer's wife tricks the lion into thinking the farmer might eat him for supper, the lion runs away.
- The lion learns the farmer is weak. The farmer is scared because the lion asked him what happened to his strength. Then the farmer runs away.
- The farmer wins the contest. He then takes the lion to get wood for a bow and arrows, but the farmer can't break a branch from the tree.
- The farmer squeezes a rock and wins the contest. Then the lion becomes scared. He hopes the farmer does not see him as he runs away.

21 Why does the lion laugh at the farmer when the farmer says he is going to hunt fat lions?

- The lion thinks he is stronger than the farmer.
- The lion thinks the farmer is funny.
- The lion knows there are no fat lions around.
- The lion thinks the farmer is hungry.

22 In paragraph 15, the word defeated means —

- squeezed
- fed
- walked
- lost

23 When the farmer is worried about the lion, what does he do?

- Asks his wife to do all the work around the house
- Makes a new bow and arrows
- Goes to his wife and asks for help
- Has his wife cook him dinner

24 Which sentence from the story shows that the wife is not afraid of the lion?

- “Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you.”*
- “I am going out to hunt for fat lions like you,” the farmer said.*
- “I am much stronger than you.”*
- “There is no reason to worry about that lion.”*

25 When the farmer first sees the lion, he feels —

- interested in what the lion is doing
- afraid that the lion will eat him
- excited about the contest with the lion
- disappointed that his wife can't see the lion

26 Why can't the farmer break a branch off the tree?

- He isn't strong enough.
- He wants the lion to do it.
- He is pretending to be weak.
- He is too hungry to try.

HARD WORK MAKES DREAMS COME TRUE

by Debbie Davis, Staff Writer

1 Astronaut Ellen Ochoa shows that with a good education and hard work, you can reach for the stars. Ochoa is the first Hispanic woman to fly into space. She is a scientist, an inventor, and a mother. She is also a hero to young people with big dreams.

2 Ochoa was born on May 10, 1958, in Los Angeles, California. As a child she didn't know what she wanted to be when she grew up. Ochoa's mother always told her to stay in school and study hard. She taught her daughter that she could do anything she wanted.

3 Ochoa listened to her mother. She worked very hard in school. She liked math, science, and music. When she was 13 years old, she won a spelling contest. In high school Ochoa spent many hours each week studying for all her classes. She finished with the best grades in her class.

4 After high school Ochoa went on to college. One day in college Ochoa heard that the U.S. government had chosen six women to become astronauts. They would be the first female astronauts from the United States. Ochoa decided

she wanted to be an astronaut, too. After college she worked as a scientist. She also became an airplane pilot. Then she applied to become an astronaut. Her many years of hard work paid off. She was asked to become an astronaut in 1990.

Ochoa trained for three years. She had to learn all about spaceships called shuttles. She learned to fix things on the shuttle that could cause problems. She had to be ready for any difficulties that could happen in space. She even learned to float in space.



Astronaut Ellen Ochoa

Continued on next page

Photo courtesy of © NASA.

6 In April 1993 aboard the space shuttle named *Discovery*, she made history by becoming the first Hispanic woman to travel to space. Ochoa and the other astronauts had many jobs while on the *Discovery*. One of her tasks was to use the shuttle's robot arm to move large objects. Ochoa used a computer to make the arm pick up a satellite and put it into space. A satellite is a spacecraft that usually moves around Earth or some other object. Satellites can take pictures and gather information about planets and stars.

7 The nine days in space during Ochoa's first spaceflight were not all work for the astronauts. Ochoa found time to play songs on her flute. She also ate tortillas, one of her favorite foods. She says that tortillas make great space food. They are easy to eat and don't take up much room. Unlike crackers, tortillas don't leave crumbs that could float around and harm the shuttle's computers.

Ochoa's second trip to space was in November 1994. This time she flew on the space shuttle *Atlantis*. During the trip she used the robot arm again. She used the arm to pull in a satellite from space. The satellite had been used to study the air around Earth. After the *Atlantis* flight, Ochoa went on two more shuttle trips. Altogether, she spent a whole month in space. That's more than 700 hours!

9 When she's not in space, Ochoa keeps busy. She likes to ride bicycles with her husband and two sons. She plays the flute. Ochoa also flies an airplane when she feels the need to get her feet off the ground.



Ochoa (bottom right) and other astronauts from the space shuttle *Discovery*

10 Ochoa knows that she is a hero to young people who dream of going into space. She tells them the same thing her mother told her when she was a little girl. "Get a good education and believe in yourself," says Ochoa. "That's how I became a NASA astronaut. The future is yours—think big!"

Photo courtesy of © AFP/CORBIS.

27 Which word from paragraph 5 helps the reader know what difficulties means?

- spaceships*
- trained*
- problems*
- years*

28 When did Ochoa decide she wanted to become an astronaut?

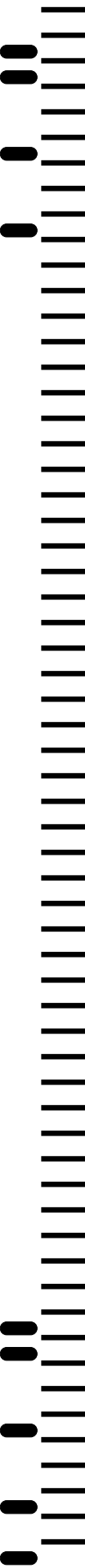
- When she was in college
- When she was 13 years old
- Before she got out of high school
- When she was a small child

29 Ochoa would probably tell a group of students that they should —

- join a music class
- all become scientists someday
- do the best they can in school
- learn how to use robot arms

30 What did Ochoa do with the robot arm on the *Discovery*?

- Put a satellite into space
- Gathered information about planets
- Took pictures of Earth
- Repaired the shuttle's computers



31 What are paragraphs 6 and 7 mainly about?

- How pictures are taken from space
- What a robot arm does on a shuttle
- How crackers can leave crumbs
- What Ochoa did on the space shuttle *Discovery*

32 The title of this article is —

- Vol. 6, Issue 4
- Space Kids
- Hard Work Makes Dreams Come True
- By Debbie Davis, Staff Writer

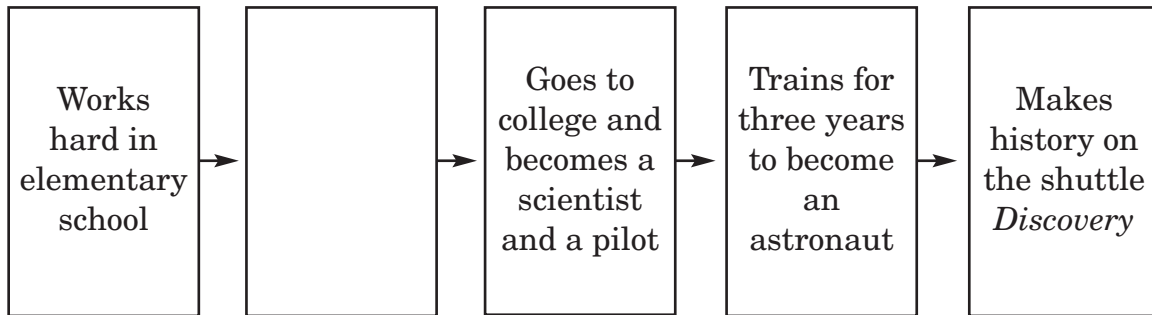
33 The reader can tell that Ochoa's mother —

- liked science and math very much
- believed her daughter could do great things
- thought space would be a good place to visit
- wanted her daughter to play the flute

34 It is not a good idea to eat crackers on a space shuttle because —

- they take up too much space
- their crumbs can damage the computers
- they don't taste as good as tortillas
- most astronauts don't like to eat them

35 Look at the time line about Ochoa's life. Then answer the question.



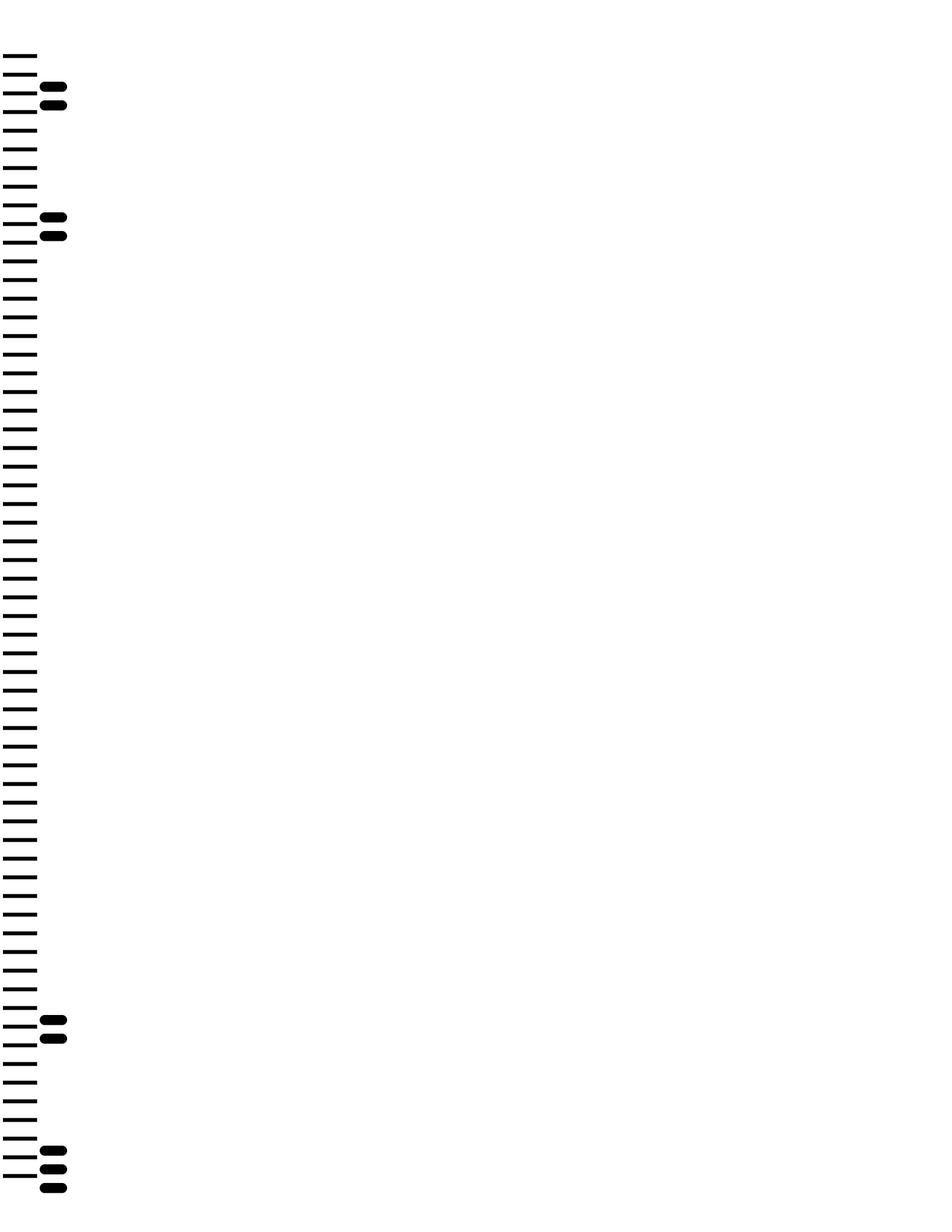
Which of the following events belongs in the empty box?

- Spends more than a month in space
- Rides bicycles with her husband and sons
- Uses robot arm on the space shuttle *Atlantis*
- Has the best grades in high school class

36 This article is mostly about —

- young girls who have an astronaut for a hero
- a woman who worked hard to become an astronaut
- the things that happen on a space shuttle
- the steps that must be taken to become an astronaut





TAKS GRADE 3
READING
MARCH 2004