

How Cognitive Skills Relate to Maryland School Assessments



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to MSA Questions	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p><i>Sustained Attention</i> – the ability to stay on task for a sustained period of time.</p>	<p>Reading a passage for comprehension requires sustained attention. If attention is not sustained, parts of the passage may not be processed or understood.</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises work on sustained attention, including <i>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Rhythm Ribbet, and Slithering Symbols.</i></p>
<p><i>Visual Sequential Memory</i> – the ability to recall a sequence of bits of information in the same order as originally received.</p>	<p>After reading a passage on making cookies, a question which asks, “In what order are the numbered steps arranged?”</p>	<p><i>Arrow Point Bridge, Bear Shuffle, Rhythm Ribbet and Slithering Symbols</i> are exercises that work on visual sequential memory.</p>
<p><i>Conceptual Thinking</i> – the ability to recognize a collection of features that go together to create an idea or category of ideas.</p>	<p>After reading a short passage, “The story is mainly about a _____.”</p>	<p><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Llama Logic</i> help develop conceptual thinking skills.</p>

There are many cognitive skills involved in learning as well as being tested on what one has learned. This document provides examples of how the MSA test places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the MSA. These are simply examples for illustration. BrainWare Safari is a product of Learning Enhancement Corporation. It is a comprehensive program that develops 41 cognitive skills in a fun and entertaining video game format. For more information, contact Learning Enhancement Corporation at www.BrainWareforYou.com or 877-BRAIN-10 (877-272-4610). Examples taken from Maryland School Assessments released and sample items, grades 3-5 (Math, Reading) and Science Content Standards grades 3,5 (Science).

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Mathematics:

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<p>Visualization – the ability to recall an image of what has been seen and to mentally manipulate and change aspects of that image in the mind.</p>	<p>“Pat has the following dot card pattern. If the pattern continues, what will the next dot card be?”</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises develop visualization skills. Such exercises include Cave Comparisons, Piranha Pass, Web Weaving, and Whispering Waterfall.</p>
<p>Oculomotor – the ability to use the eyes efficiently to read and gather information from the environment.</p>	<p>“Shauna created a pictograph, as shown below. How many trees were planted in 2003?”</p>	<p>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Piranha Pass, Sky Scanning and Turtle Recall address oculomotor skills.</p>
<p>Working Memory – the ability to hold information in the mind while performing a mental operation on it.</p>	<p>“The art teacher has 824 paint brushes. He wants to put 8 brushes in a box. How many boxes can he fill?”</p>	<p>Bear Shuffle, Cave Comparisons, Memory Mountain and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are among the exercises that improve working memory skills.</p>

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Science:

Cognitive Skill	Application to Science Standards	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p>Visual Discrimination – the ability to distinguish differences.</p>	<p>A question which asks students to “identify the physical properties of minerals (e.g., color, hardness, luster, and streak).”</p>	<p>BrainWare Safari exercises that develop visual discrimination include Cave Comparisons, Jumping Jaguar Flash, Sky Scanning and Volcanic Patterns.</p>
<p>Reasoning – the ability to form concepts and solve problems using unfamiliar information.</p>	<p>A question which asks students to “explain how Earth’s surface features and environmental conditions limit what types of living things can survive.”</p>	<p>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Piranha Pass are two of the exercises that develop reasoning skills.</p>
<p>Logic – the ability to reason and think rationally and analytically.</p>	<p>A question in which students must “explain that the patterns of stars in the sky stay the same although they appear to move across the sky in different seasons.”</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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