

## How Cognitive Skills Relate to **New Jersey** Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Questions



### Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to ASK Questions	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p><b><i>Sustained Attention</i></b> – 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 <b><i>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Rhythm Ribbet, and Slithering Symbols.</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>Visual Sequential Memory</i></b> – the ability to recall a sequence of bits of information in the same order as originally received.</p>	<p>After reading a short passage, “At the beginning of the story, why doesn’t Spider feel like eating dinner?”</p>	<p><b><i>Arrow Point Bridge, Bear Shuffle, Rhythm Ribbet and Slithering Symbols</i></b> are exercises that work on visual sequential memory.</p>
<p><b><i>Conceptual Thinking</i></b> – 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 from “Brave as a Mountain Lion,” a question that asks, “What is a theme of the story?”</p>	<p><b><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning</i></b> and <b><i>Llama Logic</i></b> 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 New Jersey ASK test places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the ASK test. 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](http://www.BrainWareforYou.com) or 877-BRAIN-10 (877-272-4610). Examples taken from NJ ASK released test questions, grades 3-4.

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### Mathematics:

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<p><b>Visualization</b> – 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>Shown a pattern of dotted triangles, “If the pattern continues, how many dots will be in the next triangle?”</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises develop visualization skills. Such exercises include <b>Cave Comparisons</b>, <b>Piranha Pass</b>, <b>Web Weaving</b>, and <b>Whispering Waterfall</b>.</p>
<p><b>Oculomotor</b> – the ability to use the eyes efficiently to read and gather information from the environment.</p>	<p>Given a series of mathematical symbols (&lt;, &gt;, =, etc.) and a pair of shaded figures, “Compare the shaded regions. Which symbol belongs in the square?”</p>	<p><b>Iguana Lookout</b>, <b>Jungle Labyrinth</b>, <b>Piranha Pass</b>, <b>Sky Scanning</b> and <b>Turtle Recall</b> address oculomotor skills.</p>
<p><b>Working Memory</b> – the ability to hold information in the mind while performing a mental operation on it.</p>	<p>“Mark has a stamp collection. He has 22 stamps from Japan, 34 from Canada, and 17 from Mexico. How many stamps does he have in all?”</p>	<p><b>Bear Shuffle</b>, <b>Cave Comparisons</b>, <b>Memory Mountain</b> and <b>Tree Tic-Tac-Toe</b> are among the exercises that improve working memory skills.</p>

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### Science:

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<p><b>Visual Discrimination</b> – the ability to distinguish differences.</p>	<p>“Chris conducted an experiment with shadow sticks. The pictures below were drawn from his observations of the Sun’s movement across the sky. Which picture shows the time of the day when the Sun was highest in the sky?”</p>	<p>BrainWare Safari exercises that develop visual discrimination include <b>Cave Comparisons</b>, <b>Jumping Jaguar Flash</b>, <b>Sky Scanning</b> and <b>Volcanic Patterns</b>.</p>
<p><b>Reasoning</b> – the ability to form concepts and solve problems using unfamiliar information.</p>	<p>Given a series of possible explanations, “Blue crabs can be found in the coastal waters of New Jersey. Which of these explains why the crab’s outer shell helps it survive in its habitat?”</p>	<p><b>Ancient Logic and Reasoning</b> and <b>Piranha Pass</b> are two of the exercises that develop reasoning skills.</p>
<p><b>Logic</b> – the ability to reason and think rationally and analytically.</p>	<p>A question which asks, “What most likely would happen if the frog population decreased in the area?”</p>	<p><b>Llama Logic</b> and <b>Tree Tic-Tac-Toe</b> are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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