

How Cognitive Skills Relate to **New Mexico** Standards-Based Assessment Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to NMSBA 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>A question which asks students to identify which event in the story happened first would test visual sequential memory.</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, “What is the underlying message of this flyer advertising the school play?”</p>	<p><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning</i> and <i>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 Standards-Based Assessment test places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the NMSBAS. 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 NMSBA released items grades 3-6.

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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>A question in which students were asked to identify the result of flipping, rotating, or mirroring a figure would test visualization skills.</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>Shown a clock, “The minute hand on a clock moved from pointing at the 9 to pointing at the 3, as pictured below. How many degrees did the minute hand turn?”</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>“Joan has a bag of pencil erasers that are identical except for color. The bag has 6 pink, 4 white, 5 green, and 5 yellow erasers. If Joan reaches into the bag and pulls out one eraser without looking, what is the probability of pulling out a pink eraser?”</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:

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<p>Visual Discrimination – the ability to distinguish differences.</p>	<p>“Use the bird feet pictured above to answer these questions. Which bird probably catches small animals with its feet? Explain your answer.”</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>Shown a diagram of a global earthquake zone, “Which of the following best explains this earthquake pattern?”</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 which asks, “Which of the following would students most likely learn about the Milky Way if they used a telescope?” [A: It is made up of many individual stars]</p>	<p>Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.</p>

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