

How Cognitive Skills Relate to **Rhode Island**  
New England Common Assessment Program Questions



**Reading:**

Cognitive Skill	Application to NECAP 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, “What is the way Raccoon first hopes Mrs. Cottontail will use the umbrella?”</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, “What is the main problem in this story?”</p>	<p><b><i>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and 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 NECAP places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the NECAP. 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 NECAP released test items grades 3 and 4 (Reading, Math) and RI Science Standards Benchmarks grades 3-5.

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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>“Look at this pattern. What are the next three shapes in the pattern?”</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises develop visualization skills. Such exercises include <b>Cave Comparisons, Piranha Pass, 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>Shown a series of shaded figures, “Which square is 2/3 shaded gray?”</p>	<p><b>Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Piranha Pass, 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>“Connie baked 7 cakes. She used 3 eggs for each cake. How many eggs did Connie use?”</p>	<p><b>Bear Shuffle, Cave Comparisons, 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>Shown different types of powders (white sand, baking soda, talc, sugar and salt), a question which asks students to “list four properties that make the five powders alike and different.”</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>After conducting an experiment with falling bodies, “Discuss what all the objects have in common. What could be pulling them down?”</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, “Identify some environmental impacts likely to be associated with a local community problem.”</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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