

How Cognitive Skills Relate to
Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Questions



Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to TAKS Questions	BrainWare Safari Exercises Developing the Skill
<p>Sustained Attention – 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 Iguana Lookout, Jungle Labyrinth, Rhythm Ribbet, and Slithering Symbols.</p>
<p>Visual Sequential Memory – the ability to recall a sequence of bits of information in the same order as originally received.</p>	<p>After reading an instructional passage, “Which of these should you do first when teaching your dog to lie down?”</p>	<p>Arrow Point Bridge, Bear Shuffle, Rhythm Ribbet and Slithering Symbols are exercises that work on visual sequential memory.</p>
<p>Conceptual Thinking – the ability to recognize a collection of features that go together to create an idea or category of ideas.</p>	<p>A question asking to gather main ideas of a passage, such as, “Which of these is the best summary of the theme of this passage?”</p>	<p>Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Llama Logic 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 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills tests place demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills nor a thorough analysis of the TAKS 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 or 877-BRAIN-10 (877-272-4610). Examples taken from Released TAAS and TAKS tests, Grade 4 (Math and Reading) and TAKS Grade 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>“Danielle created a reflection with two place settings. Which could be the place settings she used?”</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>A series of figures and a question which asks, “Which 2 figures are congruent?”</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>“Jamie and her mother used 84 centimeters of ribbon to make 1 hair bow. If they made 15 bows, how many centimeters of ribbon in all did they use?”</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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Visual Discrimination – the ability to distinguish differences.	A question for which students must read a graph or chart and interpret the information, such as, “How many more students ate apples than ate grapes?”	BrainWare Safari exercises that develop visual discrimination include Cave Comparisons , Jumping Jaguar Flash , Sky Scanning and Volcanic Patterns .
Reasoning – the ability to form concepts and solve problems using unfamiliar information.	“The wires connecting the battery and the light bulb create a closed circuit. What would happen if one of these wires were cut?”	Ancient Logic and Reasoning and Piranha Pass are two of the exercises that develop reasoning skills.
Logic – the ability to reason and think rationally and analytically.	“On the prairie the herbivores would compete most for—?”	Llama Logic and Tree Tic-Tac-Toe are two of the exercises that develop logic skills.

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