

## How Cognitive Skills Relate to Proficiency Assessments for **Wyoming** Students Questions



### Reading:

Cognitive Skill	Application to PAWS 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 an instructional passage, “What should someone making an eggshell person do right after removing the top part of an eggshell?”</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 excerpt from a play, “How is Slim’s desire for a new saddle important to the play?”</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 Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students places demands on cognitive skills. This is not meant to provide a complete perspective on cognitive skills or a thorough analysis of the PAWS. 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 PAWS sample items grades 3-4 (Reading, Math) and Science Standards grades 4-5.

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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>Given a figure and a series of manipulations of that figure, “Which of these shows a translation (slide) of the figure across the dashed line?”</p>	<p>Most BrainWare Safari exercises develop visualization skills. Such exercises include <b>Cave Comparisons, Piranha Pass, Web Weaving, and 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 picture of a clock on a wrist, “While at her friend’s house, Ann looked at her watch and saw the time shown below. Which is closest to the time shown on the watch?”</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>“A small beanbag was once kicked 203 times in 1 minute. At that rate, which is closest to the number of times the small beanbag would be kicked in 20 minutes?”</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>A question in which students must “classify objects by properties that can be observed, measured, and recorded, including color, shape, size, weight, volume, texture, and temperature.”</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>“Students explain the interrelationships of populations and ecosystems, including: limiting factors of biotic and abiotic resources (carrying capacity, population growth, and decline).”</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 in which students must “draw conclusions and accurately communicate results.”</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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