

Sample Pages from

Teacher Created Materials
PUBLISHING

Created *by* Teachers *for* Teachers and Students

Thanks for checking us out. Please call us at 800-858-7339 with questions or feedback, or to order this product. You can also order this product online at www.tcmpub.com.

For correlations to State Standards, please visit
www.tcmpub.com/administrators/correlations

To Create a World ⁱⁿ which
Children Love to Learn!

800-858-7339 • www.tcmpub.com

Practicing
for *Success*



STAAR
Writing

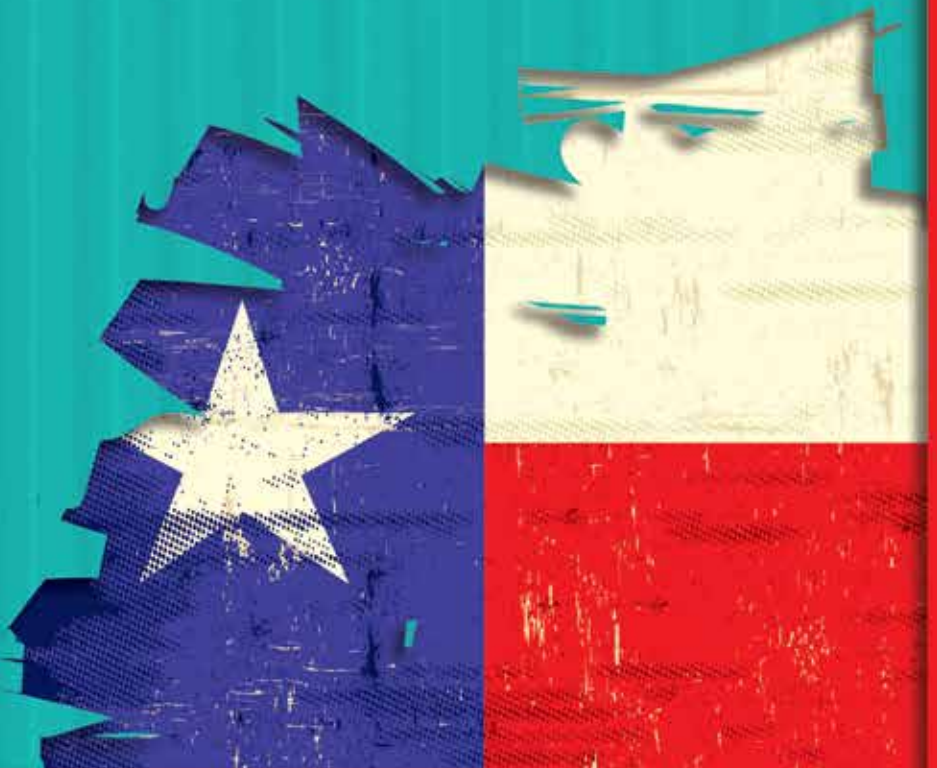


Table of Contents

Student Welcome	4
Practice Compositions	
Being Different	5
Food	9
Keeping the Planet Clean	13
Outdoor Fun	17
Nighttime Routine	21
Free Time	25
Saving Money	29
Home	33
Chores	37
Water	41
Practice Exercises	
The Supersize U.S.?	45
Hooked on Oil	49
A Frozen Vacation with Bragging Rights	53
Four Hurricanes in a Row	57
Coyote and Blue Fox	61
Two Bike Mechanics	65
The Best Yard Sale Ever	69
Jabuti’s Shell	73
The Scene from the Summit	77
Before He Changed the World	81
Famous Hispanics	85
My Friend, the Genius	89
Free All the Orcas	93
Money Isn’t Everything ... or Is It?	97
A New Game	101

Name: _____ Date: _____

Practice Composition: Being Different

READ the information in the box below.

“Embrace your uniqueness. Time is much too short to be living someone else’s life.”

— Kobi Yamada, author

THINK about the things that make you unique and different from everyone else.

WRITE about one thing that makes you different from everyone else. Describe it in detail, and explain why it makes you unique.

Make sure that you —

- state your central idea
- keep your writing organized
- use details to support your writing
- carefully consider your word choice
- write with accurate spelling, correct grammar, and appropriate capitalization and punctuation

GO ON 

Name: _____ Date: _____

USE THIS PAGE TO PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.
WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON A LINED PAGE.



Name: _____ Date: _____

USE THIS PAGE TO PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.
WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON A LINED PAGE.



Name: _____ Date: _____

A Frozen Vacation with Bragging Rights

Directions: Read the selection and respond to the questions on pages 55–56.

Jacob's teacher asked the class to research and write about an interesting place to vacation. Jacob needs you to read his essay about vacationing in the North Pole to see if he made any mistakes. When you are finished reading, answer the questions that follow.



(1) How would you like to go on vacation to a place that's cold and bleak? (2) A place where you have to keep an eye out for polar bears. (3) Does that sound like fun? (4) Then a vacation at the North Pole is for you!

(5) Yes, more and more people are picking the North Pole as their vacation spot. (6) Getting there is hard and expensive. (7) And there is not much to do when you arrive. (8) But that just seems to give visitors more to brag about when they return home.

(9) About 200 tourists go to the North Pole each year. (10) Just about anyone can do it, as long as you're ready to pay the fare. (11) A vacation there costs between \$12,000 and \$15,000. (12) Most people travel by helicopter to Camp Barneo. (13) The camp is a collection of heated red and yellow tents about 60 miles from the Pole. (14) Since there's no land at the North Pole, on a floating ice pack is where Camp Barneo is. (15) The tourist season is in early spring. (16) In spring, the sun never sets north of the Arctic Circle. (17) That means it's always daylight at the camp.

GO ON 

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Frozen Vacation with Bragging Rights *(cont.)*

(18) There's a mess hall, where the cooking equipment consists of microwave ovens and a coffee machine. (19) Conditions are still much better than those faced by early explorers, many of whom died trying to get to the Pole on foot. (20) Today, only a few adventurers still arrive at Camp Barneo on skis.

(21) However, many do try to ski the last 60 miles to the Pole. (22) Those who don't feel like skiing can take another helicopter ride to the Pole. (23) One group of Rushan skydivers parachuted there.

(24) It's hard to tell exactly where the Pole is, since the ice keeps moving and compasses are useless that far north. (25) The only way to be sure you're at the Pole is to use a satellite signal. (26) Some tourists is disappointed to find there's nothing at the Pole but ice and more ice. (27) But at least visitors come home with a photo. (28) Then they can tell their friends, "See, I was at the North Pole!"



A Frozen Vacation with Bragging Rights *(cont.)*

1 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 7?

- A Change **do** to **due**
 - B Change **not** to **knot**
 - C Change **their** to **there**
 - D Make no change
-

2 Jacob forgot to include the following sentence in the third paragraph (sentences 9–17).

The strong winds make the ice pack drift, so Camp Barneo has to be rebuilt from scratch every year.

Reread the paragraph carefully. Where is the **BEST** place to insert this sentence?

- F After sentence 14
 - G After sentence 17
 - H After sentence 9
 - J After sentence 12
-

3 The meaning of sentence 14 is unclear. Which of the following would be the **BEST** way for Jacob to rewrite sentence 14?

- A Since there's no land at the North Pole, Camp Barneo sits on a floating ice pack.
- B On a floating ice pack is where Camp Barneo sits since there's no land at the North Pole.
- C Since there's no land at the North Pole, in a floating ice pack is where Camp Barneo is.
- D At the North Pole there's no land, so on a floating ice pack is where Camp Barneo is.

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Frozen Vacation with Bragging Rights *(cont.)*

4 What adjective needs to be added to sentence 20 to better describe the adventurers?

- F nice
 - G rugged
 - H easy
 - J difficult
-

5 What change needs to be made in sentence 23?

- A Change ***parachuted*** to **parashuted**
 - B Change ***parachuted*** to **parassiuted**
 - C Change ***Rushan*** to **Rucian**
 - D Change ***Rushan*** to **Russian**
-

6 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 26?

- F Change ***is*** to **are**
- G Change ***there's*** to **there are**
- H Change ***tourists*** to **tourist**
- J Make no change

