

The purpose of this chart is to help you understand the NWEA measurement scale (RIT scale) and how it can be used to measure academic growth over time. For more specific information to help support instruction please see NWEA's DesCartes: A Continuum of Learning.

## RIT Reference Chart for Reading

NWEA tests produce scores that make it possible to monitor student growth from year to year along developmental curriculum scales or continua. The chart inside shows examples of the kinds of work students can do at various points along the NWEA RIT scale, assuming they have been exposed to content. This type of information is helpful in supporting appropriate instruction.

Please note that each subject-area has a unique alignment to the RIT scale. As a result, scores between subjects are not equivalent.

### How to use the charts:

1. Find the column containing the student's score for a particular subject. For example, if the student's score in "Word Recognition, Structure, and Vocabulary" is 188, refer to the column labeled 181-190.
2. Read down the column to locate a sample test question for a given reporting area, such as "Word Recognition, Structure, and Vocabulary." A student's score suggests that, currently, they are likely to get about half of the questions of this difficulty correct.
3. Now look at the questions in the column(s) to the left. The student is likely to get most of these correct, assuming he or she has been instructed in these skills and concepts.
4. The questions in the column(s) to the right will probably require new learning on the student's part.

### RIT Scale

We use the RIT scale to measure a student's academic growth over time. Like units on a ruler, the scale is divided into equal intervals – called Rasch Units (RIT) – and is independent of grade level.



# READING

## below 161

## 161-170

## 171-180

## 181-190

## 191-200

## 201-210

## 211-220

## 221-230

## above 230

### Word Recognition, Structure, and Vocabulary

Students can decode words, recognize common words, understand word relationships and structures, and can use context cues to decipher word meaning.

Choose the word that matches the picture.



The dog has a \_\_\_\_\_ in his mouth.

- 1. shoe
- 2. bone
- ✓3. flower
- 4. ball

Which word has the same beginning sounds as **crunch**?

- ✓1. creep
- 2. rattle
- 3. truck
- 4. cent

Read the sentences.  
Jackie couldn't believe how much fun she had on the field trip. She kept replaying the day's events in her mind on the bus ride back to school.

In the word "replaying," what does the prefix re- mean?

- 1. not
- 2. two
- ✓3. again
- 4. after

Read the sentences.

My friend Chris always does what he promises to do. If he says he'll meet me after school, he is always there waiting for me. Chris is a reliable friend.

What does reliable mean?

- 1. friendly
- 2. bright
- ✓3. dependable
- 4. capable

Read the sentences.

Lightning struck the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lilac tree.

Please put the \_\_\_\_\_of old costumes in the attic.

Which word will fit in both spaces?

- ✓1. trunk
- 2. branch
- 3. limb
- 4. root

Which set of words all have the same root word?

- 1. extra, relax, pretext
- ✓2. knowledge, unknown, knowing
- 3. here, where, there
- 4. contain, restrain, plain

What is the correct way to divide the word "responsibility" into syllables?

- 1. re'sponsi'biliti
- 2. respn'sibility
- 3. respon'sibility
- ✓4. re'sponsi'biliti

Read the sentence and dictionary entry.

The lives saved when the volcano exploded vindicated the expensive early warning system.

**vindicate** (vin-di-keyt) v. vin-di-cate

- 1. to free from an accusation
- 2. to justify based on evidence
- 3. to defend against opposition
- 4. to claim for oneself or for someone else

Which definition of vindicate is used in the sentence?

- 1. definition 1
- 2. definition 2
- 3. definition 3
- 4. definition 4

Using your knowledge of Latin roots, which is the meaning of "ambidextrous"?

- 1. lives on land and in water
- 2. walks quickly
- 3. before the flood
- ✓4. can use both hands equally

### Reading Literature: Key Ideas, Reading for Understanding

Students can read and comprehend literary texts, make inferences and predictions, and draw conclusions. They can determine key ideas, analyze the development of themes, and summarize.

Read the story.

Mother was getting ready for Sandy's surprise tomorrow. She had baked a cake and invited all of Sandy's friends. Now all she needed was seven candles for the cake. Tomorrow would be

- 1. Sandy's first day at school
- ✓2. Sandy's seventh birthday
- 3. a good day to work in the yard
- 4. Mother's birthday

Read the directions.

Making mud pies is fun. Find some nice sticky mud. Shape it into little pies. Set the pies in the sun to dry out.

This will work best on

- ✓1. a sunny day
- 2. a rainy day
- 3. a snowy day
- 4. a cloudy day

Read the paragraph.

Gordon loves to visit his aunt and uncle in Vermont. He goes up every summer to visit them. They live on a houseboat on the lake...(passage continues)

What does Gordon like to do best?

- 1. swim in the lake
- 2. fish for perch and trout
- 3. read books on the boat deck
- ✓4. steer the boat around the lake

Read the passage.

The wind whipped the tops of the trees so they looked like they were dancing. Clouds raced across the sky. Leaves and bits of paper swirled around...(passage continues)

What sentence best tells what the story is about?

- 1. They are having fun in the snow.
- 2. They are cleaning up after a big storm.
- 3. There is a double rainbow in the sky.
- ✓4. A big rain storm is about to start.

Read the passage.

Molly stared out the bus window with blank eyes. Next to her, a woman pulled herself up. She got off at the next stop. Molly looked over and saw that she left something on the seat...(passage continues)

What was Molly's first reaction when she picked up the wallet?

- ✓1. to turn it in to the bus driver
- 2. to look at the pictures
- 3. to call after the woman
- 4. to take the money

Read the story.

The lights went out, and people at the costume ball stopped dancing. They spoke in whispers. Then a guest dressed as a lion tamer cried aloud, "Watch out!" Polly screamed...(passage continues)

Who is most likely the thief in this story?

- 1. the lion tamer
- 2. Polly
- 3. Detective Cutler
- ✓4. the pirate

Read the passage.

He lived on the bank of a mighty river, broad and deep, which was always silently rolling on to a vast undiscovered ocean. It had rolled on, ever since the world began...(passage continues)

What is the main point in this passage?

- 1. The river supported life on its banks.
- 2. It is hard to swim against the tide.
- ✓3. The flow of the river to the ocean is unchanging.
- 4. Earth will continue to circle around the sun.

Read the passage.

Bernadou clung to his home with a dogged devotion...(passage continues)

Based on the passage, which statement about Bernadou is most likely true?

- 1. Bernadou had travelled to the capital of his country many times.
- 2. Bernadou was a drifter, never spending much time in any one place.
- 3. Bernadou would fight with loyalty and fierceness for any good cause.
- ✓4. Bernadou felt a strong connection to his hometown, but not his country.

Read the passage.

You, with no limit or no bound, may choose for yourself the limits and bounds of your nature. We have placed you at the world's center so that you may survey everything else in the world...(passage continues)

(from "Oration On the Dignity Of Man" by Giovanni Pico della Mirandola)

What is the main idea of the passage?

- 1. Humans are the most important things in the world.
- ✓2. Humans are not like anything else in the heavens or on Earth.
- 3. Humans have free will to become whatever they want to be.
- 4. Humans are responsible for the well-being of all creatures.

### Reading Literature: Craft, Structure, Evaluation

Students can analyze the structure of literary texts; analyze literary elements of a text, such as plot, character, theme, and setting; analyze literary devices; and evaluate the author's craft.

Read the story.

Maria ate a big bowl of cereal. After breakfast, Maria put her book in her backpack...(passage continues)

What did Maria do first?

- ✓1. eat her breakfast
- 2. put her book in her backpack
- 3. put on her coat
- 4. walk to the bus stop

Read the story.

Rita was walking to the library one day in the rain. There were many people out on the streets...(passage continues)

What caused Rita to trip over the curb?

- 1. walking in the rain
- ✓2. talking on the phone
- 3. people on the streets
- 4. her bag of books

Read the passage.

Dave and Mike had a great time sledding. They pulled their sleds up the big hill and went down face first...(passage continues)

What did Mike and Dave do right after playing outside?

- 1. They pulled their sleds up the big hill.
- 2. They raced down the hill.
- ✓3. They had grilled cheese and soup.
- 4. They fell asleep on the couch.

Read the sentences.

Scott opened his eyes and looked at the clock. He pulled the blankets over his head to keep the sun out. He yawned and closed his eyes. He wanted just ten more minutes of sleep.

What does the author want you to think about Scott?

- ✓1. He is tired.
- 2. He is dreaming.
- 3. He is hungry.
- 4. He is scared.

Read the passage.

Laura's teacher asked to see her science project. "But Mrs. Thompson, I forgot it was due today!" Laura said. Then she asked if she could call her mom...(passage continues)

How do readers learn about Laura?

- 1. from what other characters say
- ✓2. from what she says to others
- 3. from what she looks like
- 4. from descriptions of her feelings

Read the paragraph.

The clouds lifted and the pilot sighted the tower of the Jefferson City Airport. He had already radioed ahead that he was arriving...(passage continues)

What is the best title for this paragraph?

- 1. Jefferson City Airport
- 2. One Cloudy Night
- ✓3. A Safe Landing
- 4. A Pilot's Life

Read the passage.

Many years ago, a young man named Takoda decided to go on foot to Dark Mountain, a three-day journey from his village. Two days into his journey, he paused for nourishment in a narrow valley, with steep cliffs on either side...(passage continues)

Which setting detail represents safety to Takoda?

- 1. murmuring wind in the trees
- 2. a clear cloudless sky
- 3. a small outcropping of rocks
- ✓4. the valley covered in dry grass

Read the excerpt.

I saw the different things you did, But always you yourself you hid. I felt you push, I heard you call, I could not see yourself at all—

O wind, a—blowing all day long, O wind, that sings so loud a song!

(from "The Wind" by Robert Louis Stevenson)

What is the rhyme scheme?

- 1. AAABBB
- 2. ABAACC
- ✓3. AABCC
- 4. ABCABC

Read the poem.

Hope is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul, And sings the tune without the words, And never stops at all...(poem continues)

("Hope" is the thing with feathers" by Emily Dickinson)

Which statement best expresses the meaning of the extended metaphor that compares hope to a bird throughout the poem?

- ✓1. Hope is a constant presence and gives people comfort.
- 2. Hope flies away like a bird during storms and difficult times.
- 3. Hope is demanding, like a bird that constantly needs to be cared for.
- 4. Hope tries to sing songs that are uplifting, but forgets the words to them.

### Reading Informational Texts: Key Ideas, Reading for Understanding

Students can read and comprehend non-literary texts, make inferences and predictions, and draw conclusions. They can determine key ideas, analyze the development of arguments, and summarize.

Read the passage.

Many kinds of dogs live in the world. Some have been around for a long time...(passage continues)

What do Mudis like?

- 1. other dogs
- ✓2. having work to do
- 3. living in the city
- 4. sleeping all day

Read the sentences.

This is how you make lemonade. It is fun and easy...(passage continues)

What are the sentences about?

- 1. what lemonade tastes like
- 2. where to buy lemons
- ✓3. how to make lemonade
- 4. when to make lemonade

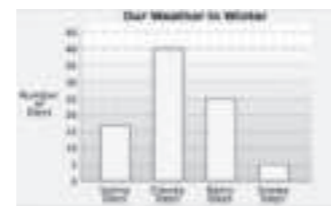
Read the paragraph.

A hen lays about one egg a day. A chick takes three weeks to be born from an egg...(passage continues)

When do chicks start peeping?

- 1. after one week
- 2. after two weeks
- ✓3. after three weeks
- 4. after four weeks

Read the graph.



What kind of weather happens most often?

- 1. sunny
- 2. cloudy
- 3. rainy
- 4. snowy

Read the paragraph.

Weasels are hunters. They prey on mice, rats, insects, and birds. They will attack larger animals too, such as rabbits and chickens...(passage continues)

What does the weasel do when it gets more food than it needs?

- 1. It eats until it is sick.
- 2. It shares the food with others.
- ✓3. It stores the food for later.
- 4. It lets the food go to waste.

Read the paragraph.

Platinum is a silver-white metal that is even more valuable than gold. It will not corrode or tarnish as many metals do when exposed to air...(passage continues)

According to the passage, why is platinum valued by jewelers?

- 1. It can be used as a catalyst.
- ✓2. It is good for gem settings.
- 3. It is more rare than gold.
- 4. It is produced in many countries.

Read the paragraph.

Just as the clock struck midnight, Greg was awakened by a sound coming from outside his window. He jumped out of bed to inquire about the sound...(passage continues)

What does the author portray in this paragraph?

- ✓1. a science fiction setting
- 2. a historical fiction setting
- 3. a tall tale setting
- 4. a mystery setting

Read the paragraph.

I.M. Pei is a famous 20<sup>th</sup> century architect who was born in China but educated in the United States. Pei designed many great public spaces of the last 50 years but he considered the John F. Kennedy library his most important commission...(passage continues)

Which is most likely the author's purpose?

- ✓1. to inform readers about a famous architect
- 2. to persuade readers to visit Pei's buildings
- 3. to inspire readers to study architecture
- 4. to explain how architecture changed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

Read the poem.

The fog comes on little cat feet.

It sits looking over harbor and city on silent haunches and then moves on.

("The Fog" by Carl Sandburg)

Which literary device is used in the poem?

- 1. onomatopoeia
- 2. oxymoron
- ✓3. parallelism
- 4. extended metaphor

### Reading Informational Texts: Craft, Structure, Evaluation

Students can analyze the structure of texts, evaluate a text for bias, and evaluate the author's craft.

Which is a toy?

- 1. chair
- 2. shirt
- ✓3. ball
- 4. cookie

Read the sentences.

The wind blew and the papers fell off the table. It made a mess.

Why did the papers fall?

- ✓1. The wind blew.
- 2. The table fell.
- 3. The papers made a mess.
- 4. It was getting cold.

Read the passage.

The best place to go on vacation is Florida. There are beautiful beaches, luxury hotels, good restaurants, and interesting shops...(passage continues)

What is the author's opinion of Florida?

- 1. The weather is too hot.
- 2. Florida has no variety.
- 3. Only boaters will enjoy Florida.
- ✓4. Florida is a great place to visit.

Read the passage.

(1)One of the most famous bad guys in history was Robin Hood. (2)People think he lived in England, and hid in the forest with his friends...(passage continues)

In which sentence does the writer state how he feels about Robin Hood?

- 1. Sentence 2
- 2. Sentence 3
- 3. Sentence 4
- ✓4. Sentence 5

Read the passage.

There are many differences between the ancient Olympics and the Olympics of today. In ancient times, the games were only held during the summer, but today there are summer and winter Olympic Games...(passage continues)

Which organization structure is used in this passage?

- 1. sequence of events
- 2. order of importance
- 3. cause and effect
- ✓4. compare and contrast

Read the paragraph.

Happy Birthday, Maudie is a delightful movie. The characters are believable, and the plot is a tender love story...(passage continues)

Don't bother to see Happy Birthday, Maudie. It's a sappy movie about a dumb girl who lets everyone push her around...(passage continues)

Based on the descriptions in the two reviews, on which topic are the two reviewers most likely to agree?

- 1. the main character's personality
- 2. the quality of the plot
- ✓3. the details of the setting
- 4. the overall quality of the movie

Read the paragraph.

The thorny devil is a very interesting and unusual creature. From its name, one might guess that it is large and scary with sharp thorns all over its body...(passage continues)

Which is the most likely reason the writer mentions the readers' assumptions about thorny devils?

- 1. to show how unknown the thorny devil is
- ✓2. to create interest in the reader
- 3. to emphasize the writer's knowledge
- 4. to suggest the name is not a good one

Read the passage.

Changes in climate have also been manifested in altered precipitation patterns. Over the last century, the amount of precipitation has increased significantly across eastern parts of North America and several other regions of the world (IPCC, 2007b)...(passage continues)

Which feature of this text most assures the validity of the information?

- ✓1. the use of citations
- 2. the vocabulary
- 3. the use of percents
- 4. the author's tone

Read the passage.

Our database of more than 3,000 articles of documented investigations is an easy-to-use tool for scientific research. Users may look for a general topic or narrow their search through the use of three topic code parameters...(passage continues)

Topic Code Parameters	Description
Social Context	Who conducted the research? Where was it conducted?
Method	How was the research conducted? What procedures were used?
Findings	What was observed? What results were achieved?

How does the chart complement the text?

- 1. It summarizes the text.
- ✓2. It provides detail not in the text.
- 3. It serves to contrast information in the text.
- 4. It provides transition between the two parts of the text.