



for **Daily Reinforcement and Review**

Reading Grade 4

Work Text

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ECS Learning Systems, Inc.

PO Box 440, Bulverde, TX 78163-0440
1.800.688.3224 (t) • 1.877.688.3226 (f)

ecslearningsystems.com

Editorial Director: Lori Mammen

Writers: Rachel Boyers, Mike Hanna,
Mina Lopez, Heather Marnan

Page Layout: Flannery Abrahamson,
Kristin East, Andrea M. Harris

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Introduction to TAKS MASTER® FASTER

Make this TAKS MASTER® FASTER book the starting line for practicing your reading skills. How? Work right inside this book—just read one short passage each day and answer the questions that follow.

Ready, Set, Go!

There are enough reading passages to practice your skills each day for eight weeks. The reading passages are quick, short, and interesting. They are grouped into weekly units. Each unit begins with a fun introduction page of activities to jump-start your brain. The introduction pages include activities such as word finds, story writing, drawing, and more.

You'll find a great variety of brief texts, including stories, poems, fables, biographies, informational texts, and advertisements. What's more, the "hot" topics are from science, social studies, and other areas of interest.

How to Use This Book

Starting with Week 1, complete the introduction page. This will rev up your thoughts about the unit's topic before you begin. Then, read one selection every day. Read each question that follows that selection. Decide which is the best answer to each question. Mark the answer you have chosen by circling A, B, C, or D.

Be sure to mark only one answer in your book for each question. You may not know the answers to all of the questions. If you do not know the answer to a question, choose the answer you think might be correct.

You may write in your book if you would like to make notes. You can highlight the part of the text you used to answer each question. You can even color the illustrations in your book!

Once you blast through an entire unit, do the following—

- Think about how all of the selections relate to the unit topic.
- Think about how the introduction page helped you understand the selections.
- Think about what new information you learned.
- Think about how you found the answer to each reading question.
- Write a post-reading question of your own at the end of each selection. Use the selection to answer your question, or have a classmate answer your question.
- Write captions for the illustrations or photos in the unit.

Week 1: Railroads: The Backbone of America

C'mon 'n Ride the Train

Follow along with the story below as your teacher reads aloud.



Imagine you are taking a train ride. You are on the Lebanon Mason Monroe Railroad in Ohio. It is winter and the train cars are enclosed, but they are not heated. During your hour-long ride, you literally rock and roll down the track. You are amazed by the train's sounds, including the whistle and clackety-clack. You wonder at its size and the smell of diesel fuel. You meet the train's conductor, who yells, "All aboard!" There are train cars, such as the dining car, to explore. On the lines below, describe what else you see and hear during your multi-sensory experience.

Railroad Riddle

Research a person or idea related to railroads. Present your facts as a riddle below. Some ideas are: Georgius Agricola, Union Pacific, conductor, locomotive engineer, transcontinental railroad, Abraham Lincoln.

We Deliver!

Today, people ride in automobiles and airplanes. Yet trains continue to support the nation. Families depend on many goods and materials that travel on trains. List some items that move by train.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I've Been Working on the [Underground] Railroad

Slaves during the 1800s longed to escape. Obtaining freedom was dangerous. The Underground Railroad was a series of secret routes to freedom. Helping slaves get to safe places like Canada was illegal, but some people such as Harriet Tubman worked on the Underground Railroad. What dangers did slaves face on the Underground Railroad? On the lines below, list some of these dangers.

Now read the following passages about railroads, and choose the best answer to the questions. Be sure to circle your answers.

