

Conquesta 2008

(International Multiple Choice School Olympiads – Est. 1998)
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English Language 1 – Year 6

Welcome to your Conquesta Olympiad. As you read and answer the questions, we hope that you enjoy and learn from the information. Once you have read the information and the questions carefully, you have to make a choice. When you have decided which of the answers is correct, completely fill in the matching square on your answer sheet using a 2B or a B pencil. For example, if the answer to question 4 is c, then neatly fill in the square containing c next to the number 4. See example below. Fill in only one square per question and make sure you completely rub out any mistakes so that the answer is clear.

Example:-

4.	a	b	c	d
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Cowboys and Indians

Read the extract on the right for questions 1–10.

1. **What is the main idea of this story.**
 - (a) A person needs luck in order to win a battle.
 - (b) The strongest person always wins.
 - (c) Size doesn't always decide who wins a battle.
 - (d) The smallest person always wins the battle.
2. **Why did the Pawnees tell this story?**
 - (a) They wanted to show how the giants had met their downfall.
 - (b) They wanted to show why the buffalo was important to them.
 - (c) They wanted to show what winter was like on the prairie.
 - (d) They wanted to use this story as a moral lesson.
3. **Why was the mouse in a hurry to gather her food?**
 - (a) She had not eaten for over a week.
 - (b) She was afraid that other mice would eat her food.
 - (c) She knew that winter was on its way and food would be hard to find.
 - (d) She knew that the buffalo would eat all her food and destroy her home.
4. **Which one of the titles would best suit this story?**
 - (a) *The Origin of the Pawnees.*
 - (b) *Winter on the Prairie.*
 - (c) *The Day the Small Beat the Big.*
 - (d) *Buffalo versus Mouse.*
5. **What made the mouse very angry?**
 - (a) The buffalo had stepped on her nest.
 - (b) The buffalo ate all her food.
 - (c) The buffalo laughed at her.
 - (d) The buffalo looked down on her with scorn.
6. **How did the mouse beat the buffalo?**
 - (a) She chewed his tail.
 - (b) She hit the buffalo.
 - (c) She bit the buffalo.
 - (d) She tickled the buffalo's ear.
7. **Which word would be closest to the meaning of 'tangy' in the above story?**
 - (a) tasty (b) spicy (c) sharp (d) flavourful

How the Buffalo Lost the War

The homeland of the Pawnee Tribe stretched across vast prairies. Millions of buffalo ranged there. Buffalo meat and hide gave the Pawnees food, clothing and shelter. The Pawnees have a legend about the buffalo. It was almost winter. A field mouse ventured out of her nest of dried grass in the small prairie meadow. She sniffed the crisp, tangy air. Instinct told her that the north wind was soon to arrive and it would sweep the prairie with its frost-tipped wings. It was time, she thought, to gather her food. While she searched busily for wild beans in the tall grass, a buffalo bull came to the meadow to graze. The sight of this huge, shaggy beast alarmed the mouse. She was afraid that he would eat most of the grass and mow down the rest with his hooves and rough tongue. The mouse was also concerned that as a result of this, she would have no place left to hide. "Hi there big fellow," squeaked the mouse. "Welcome to the meadow. Be so kind as to save a small patch for me," she pleaded. The buffalo did not take any notice of her and continued munching on a mouthful of grass. The mouse was about to repeat her request when she saw the beast step on her nest. "Whow!" she shrieked, her whiskers bristling. "You've destroyed my nest! Leave this meadow at once or I'll challenge you to war!" she demanded. The buffalo looked down on the mouse with scorn. "You foolish little thing," he snorted. "You are far too small to wage a war with me, a mighty giant!" A moment later, the buffalo felt a tickle inside his right ear. He shook his head from side to side and twitched his ears. But the tickly feeling only increased. The poor beast began running around in circles. Then the buffalo stopped abruptly. Out jumped the mouse. The buffalo was most surprised. "So it's you!" he exclaimed. "Have you no respect for mighty giants?" he asked. He then lowered his head and charged at the mouse. She was quick to respond and sprang on top of the buffalo's head. Once more the beast felt the maddening tickle. He bellowed with rage, pawed the air with his front hooves and tore up the grass with his sharp horns. He then wheeled about and galloped towards a rocky hillside. He finally stopped in the valley below. The mouse leapt out of his ear victoriously. "So now who has won?" she cheekily challenged the buffalo. There was no reply, for the buffalo sped off into the distance.

8. **Personification means to give a human quality to something that is not human. Which one of the underlined words makes winter appear to be like a human or person?**

The north wind was soon to arrive and it would sweep the prairie with its frost-tipped wings.

- (a) north wind (b) sweep (c) prairie (d) frost-tipped
9. **Which word is the antonym of shaggy?**
 - (a) tidy (b) unkempt (c) bushy (d) dishevelled
10. **Which one of the words, represents a sound?**
 - (a) asked (b) exclaimed (c) squeaked (d) requested

