



Coherence and Alignment Among Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CASCIA) Project

Grade 8 Unit 3: Understanding Earth History and the Origin of Species

Task 1 Prompt 1 Part A Scored and Annotated Anchor Set

May 2025

Grade 8 Unit 3: Understanding Earth History and the Origin of Species, Task 1 Prompt 1 Part A Scored and Annotated Anchor Set was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education under the Competitive Grants for State Assessments Program CFDA 84.368A. The contents of this paper do not represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no assumption of endorsement by the Federal government should be made.

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CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 1: A Whale of a Tale!

Prompt 1 Part A Score Point 2

Prompt 1 Part A Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 1 Part A.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies at least one (1) of the two (2) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - The fern/plant fossil indicates a terrestrial environment - The fish fossil indicates an aquatic environment	NA	NA

Score Point 2 (2/2 aspects met)

- Part A
 - Includes that the fern/plant fossil indicates a terrestrial ecosystem existed.

NOTE: The student does not specify “terrestrial environment” but describes an “ecosystem with. . . vegetation. . .”

- Includes that the fish fossil indicates an aquatic ecosystem existed.

NOTE: The student does not specify “aquatic environment” but describes an “under water ecosystem. . .”

Part A.

Describe the type of ecosystem in which each fossil, Fossil A and Fossil B, was formed. Explain your answer for each fossil.

Fossil A was most likely formed in an ecosystem with the resources for vegetation to grow. Fossil B was most likely formed in an under water ecosystem due to the fact that the fossils look like fish.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 1: A Whale of a Tale!

Prompt 1 Part A Score Point 1

Prompt 1 Part A Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 1 Part A.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies at least one (1) of the two (2) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - The fern/plant fossil indicates a terrestrial environment - The fish fossil indicates an aquatic environment	NA	NA

Score Point 1 (1/2 aspects met)

- Part A
 - Does **NOT** include that the fern/plant fossil indicates a terrestrial environment (i.e., the student assumes the plant fossil was an aquatic plant).
 - Includes that the fish fossil indicates an aquatic environment existed.

Part A.

Describe the type of ecosystem in which each fossil, **Fossil A** and **Fossil B**, was formed. Explain your answer for each fossil.

The two fossils were both aquatic so both were under water at one time.

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Prompt 1 Part A Score Point 0

Prompt 1 Part A Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 1 Part A.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies at least one (1) of the two (2) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - The fern/plant fossil indicates a terrestrial environment - The fish fossil indicates an aquatic environment	NA	NA

Score Point 0 (0/2 aspects met)

- Part A
 - Does **NOT** include that the fern/plant fossil indicates a terrestrial environment existed.
 - Does **NOT** include that the fish fossil indicates an aquatic environment existed.

NOTE: The student correctly identifies both fossil types, however, does not describe either ecosystem in which the fossils were formed.

Part A.

Describe the type of ecosystem in which each fossil, Fossil A and Fossil B, was formed. Explain your answer for each fossil.

Fossil A is probably a tree that
 extinct a long time ago.
 Fossil B was probably fish bones