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 2 Parts A & B Scored and Annotated Anchor Set

May 2025

Grade 8 Unit 3: Understanding Earth History and the Origin of Species, Task 1 Prompt 2 Parts A & B 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.

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

Prompt 2 Parts A & B Score Point 3

Prompt 2 Parts A & B Rubric

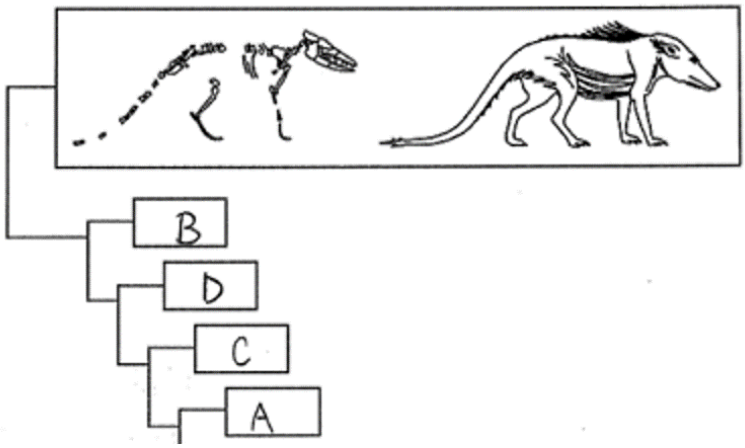
Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 2 Part A. & Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies **one (1)** of the **three (3)** aspects	Response includes the following **three (3)** aspects: • Places **two (2)** of the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities • Explanation includes **one (1)** of the **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	Response includes the following **six (6)** aspects: • Places the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities (B, D, C, A) • Explanation includes **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	NA

Score Point 3 (3/3 aspects met)

- Parts A & B
  - Places the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities.
  - Includes **two (2)** patterns of changes.

Use the letters in **Table 1** (**A, B, C, D**) to sequence the organisms and their changes over time in the boxes in **Figure 3**. Use one letter in each box.

Figure 3. Changes in Organisms Over Time



Part B.

Identify **at least two patterns** in the fossil record shown in your completed **Figure 3** and the fossils shown in **Table 1** that can be used to determine the sequence of changes over time that led to today's whales.

One pattern is their legs, you can see them growing into 2 front flippers from 4 legs for walking. Another pattern is their spine. As they grow their spines get longer and get more bones

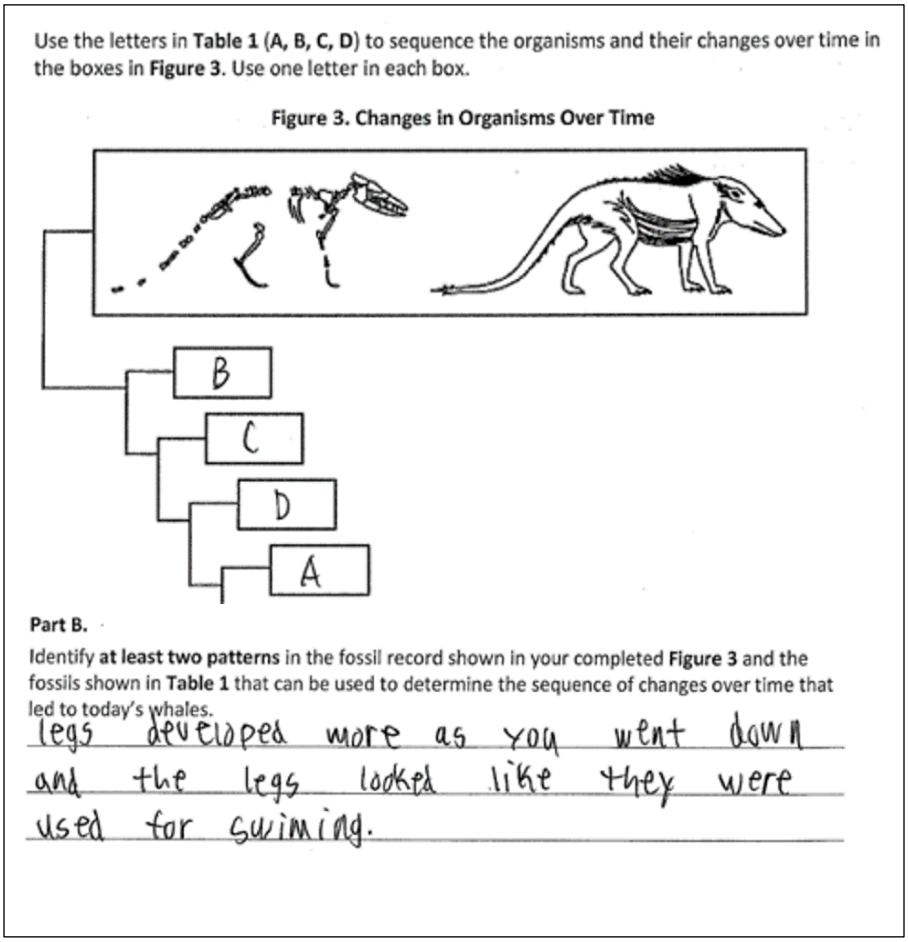
CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 1: A Whale of a Tale!
Prompt 2 Parts A & B Score Point 2

Prompt 2 Parts A & B Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 2 Part A. & Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies **one (1)** of the **three (3)** aspects	Response includes the following **three (3)** aspects: • Places **two (2)** of the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities • Explanation includes **one (1)** of the **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	Response includes the following **six (6)** aspects: • Places the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities (B, D, C, A) • Explanation includes **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	NA

Score Point 2 (2/3 aspects met)

- Parts A & B
  - Places **two (2)** of the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities.
  - Includes **one (1)** of the **two (2)** patterns of changes (i.e., ". . . legs looked like they were used for swimming").



Use the letters in **Table 1** (**A, B, C, D**) to sequence the organisms and their changes over time in the boxes in **Figure 3**. Use one letter in each box.

Figure 3. Changes in Organisms Over Time

Part B.

Identify **at least two patterns** in the fossil record shown in your completed **Figure 3** and the fossils shown in **Table 1** that can be used to determine the sequence of changes over time that led to today's whales.

legs developed more as you went down and the legs looked like they were used for swiming.

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

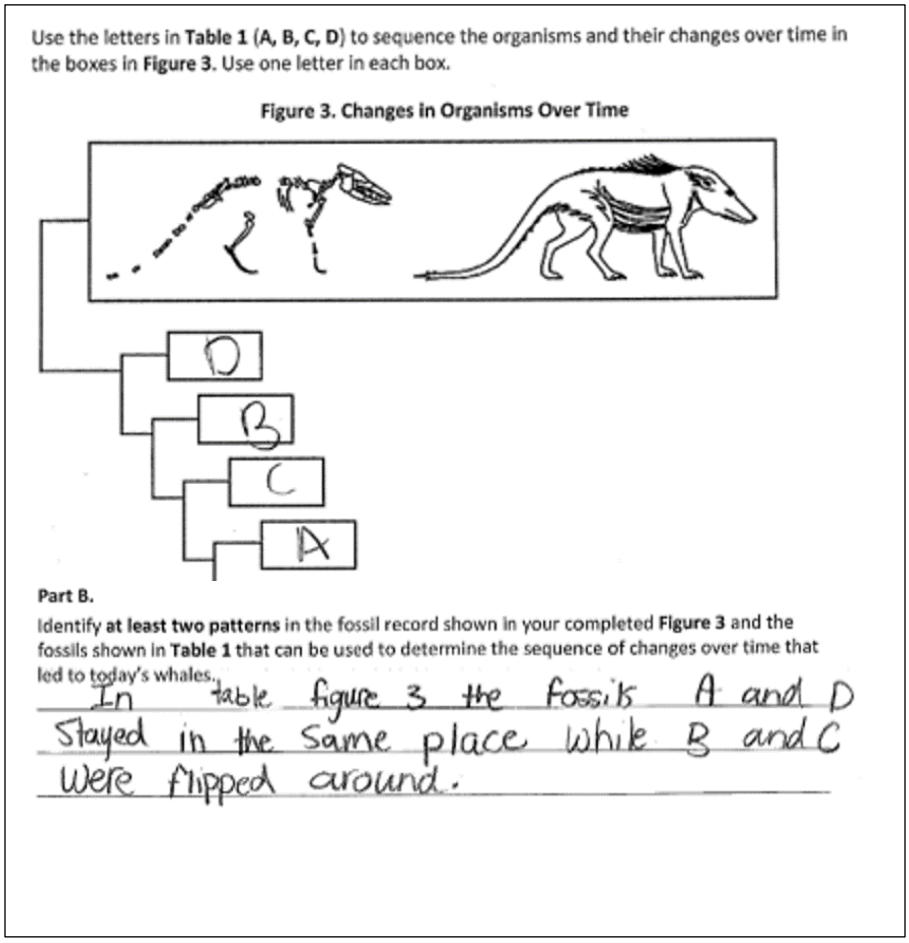
Prompt 2 Parts A & B Score Point 1

Prompt 2 Parts A & B Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 2 Part A. & Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies **one (1)** of the **three (3)** aspects	Response includes the following **three (3)** aspects: • Places **two (2)** of the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities • Explanation includes **one (1)** of the **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	Response includes the following **six (6)** aspects: • Places the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities (B, D, C, A) • Explanation includes **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	NA

Score Point 1 (1/3 aspects met)

- Parts A & B
  - Places **two (2)** of the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities.
  - Does **NOT** include **one (1)** of the **two (2)** patterns of changes.



Use the letters in **Table 1** (**A, B, C, D**) to sequence the organisms and their changes over time in the boxes in **Figure 3.** Use one letter in each box.

Figure 3. Changes in Organisms Over Time

Part B.

Identify **at least two patterns** in the fossil record shown in your completed **Figure 3** and the fossils shown in **Table 1** that can be used to determine the sequence of changes over time that led to today's whales.

In table figure 3 the fossils A and D stayed in the same place while B and C were flipped around.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 1: A Whale of a Tale!
Prompt 2 Parts A & B Score Point 0

Prompt 2 Parts A & B Rubric

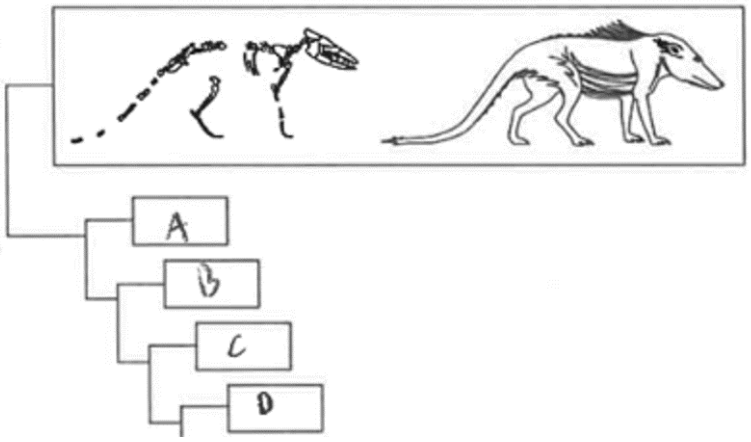
Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 2 Part A. & Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies **one (1)** of the **three (3)** aspects	Response includes the following **three (3)** aspects: • Places **two (2)** of the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities • Explanation includes **one (1)** of the **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	Response includes the following **six (6)** aspects: • Places the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities (B, D, C, A) • Explanation includes **two (2)** patterns of changes (e.g., the changes in the limbs; changes in vertebrae)	NA

Score Point 0 (0/3 aspects met)

- Parts A & B
  - Does **NOT** place **two (2)** of the **four (4)** organisms in order of anatomical similarities (i.e., the student has one of four correct).
  - Does **NOT** include **one (1)** of the **two (2)** patterns of changes (i.e., the student states that the traits are passed down, but does not describe the traits or identify the patterns).

Use the letters in **Table 1** (**A, B, C, D**) to sequence the organisms and their changes over time in the boxes in **Figure 3**. Use one letter in each box.

Figure 3. Changes in Organisms Over Time



Part B.

Identify **at least two patterns** in the fossil record shown in your completed **Figure 3** and the fossils shown in **Table 1** that can be used to determine the sequence of changes over time that led to today's whales.

they am passed down their own traits to the whale