



District Assessments
2020 -2021 School Year

Grade 6

ELA

VLT 2: Informative

**This is a secure assessment.
All individuals must follow the security agreement
below.**

This assessment must be administered in a teacher's classroom and may **not** be transferred to another room by any student at any time.

Taking photographs, transferring, or recording information onto **any** platform from this secure district assessment is strictly prohibited.

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Read the "Mountain Biking" passage set.

"Mountain Biking"

Source 1: Best American Bike Trails

by J. Wallach

- 1 Bicycling has come a long way. Road bikes have evolved significantly, and then there's the highly popular category of mountain biking, which combines the pleasures (and pain) of road trips with the yee-haw attitude of wilderness adventure.
- 2 Great trails throughout the U.S. provide a variety of terrain, scenery, amenities, challenge and overall experience for riders of differing abilities and intentions.
- 3 For many riders, surface is a key ingredient of a great trail. These cyclists want to pedal happily and enjoy the scenery without potential hazards. Polly Mayberry is such a rider. Mayberry and her husband pedal about 1,000 miles annually, and provide descriptions, logistical information and links to additional sources about their favorite trails on their Web site. Mayberry chooses Missouri's Katy Trail as one of the nation's best, in part because of its great surface.
- 4 "As older riders, surface matters to us," Mayberry says. "We don't want to ride a trail that's too rough. The Katy Trail would be a 10 because of the beauty of the territory and the trail surface. It's basically flat and it's an easy ride for people of all ages. You can ride for mile after mile seeing nothing but country."
- 5 For cyclists, great scenery is another important component of the best trails - you might as well be chugging past beautiful and interesting sights.
- 6 Mayberry ranks the Hiawatha Trail in Montana and Idaho highly, largely for the views. It's also one of many former railroad lines that has been converted to a bike trail. "This is probably the most scenic bike trail in the country," she reports.

- 7 The route features 10 tunnels, including the 1.66-mile Taft Tunnel, which takes riders beneath the Idaho-Montana state line. The 15-mile jaunt also includes crossings of seven trestles. "The trestles are extremely high and offer fantastic views of beautiful, rugged mountains," Mayberry says.
- 8 Joe "Metal Cowboy" Kurmaskie likes scenery as much as anyone, but he believes the very best bike trails need to have something more. An author of three best-selling books about bicycle travel (most recently "Momentum is Your Friend"), Kurmaskie has logged more than 127,000 miles on wheels.
- 9 Kurmaskie says, "A great trail doesn't have to have National Geographic-quality scenery, but it needs something visually, culturally or historically unique - like a trail linking great barbecue pits in the South, or one that follows a route to 10 famed baseball stadiums. Every good trail simply needs to be unique and have a theme."
- 10 One of his favorite routes is along the Underground Railroad Trail, stretching from Alabama to Ohio and beyond into Canada.
- 11 As Kurmaskie notes, the Underground Railroad Trail "highlights the best hospitality of small towns with quite a bit of our country's history woven into the ride." Hospitality and service are hallmarks of great rides - many cyclists want to sprint or glide toward a finish line with a special café or brewpub waiting.
- 12 On longer rides, the quality of services can help turn a slog into a comfortable journey broken up by hot baths at quaint inns, a memorable breakfast, or even a place to restock on everything from food to excitement.
- 13 Jim Sayer is the Executive Director of the non-profit Adventure Cycling Association, which publishes a magazine, maps and other resources for bikers, offers tours and classes, and works to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle.
- 14 Sayer agrees that safety and comfort are major components of the best trails. "Traffic volume, facilities and how the trails themselves are designed and maintained all matter," he says. "Great trails should go through communities and towns with shops and campgrounds and other amenities."

- 15 That's one reason why he chooses The Transamerica Trail, running between Virginia and Oregon, as one of the nation's best. "No other bike trail does a better job taking you through America's heartland and its small towns, and no other trail compares for capturing America in all its variety and heritage. Finishing this trail leaves people feeling like this is one of the greatest countries in the world for its people and landscape."
- 16 But some riders won't be happy spinning through quaint towns; they want to hurl themselves at challenging terrain. For these hard-core riders seeking a more adventurous experience, Sayer recommends the Great Divide Trail, which follows the route of the Continental Divide through some of the most mountainous regions of North America. "It's the longest mountain bike ride anywhere in the world and gives a sense of remoteness that's unusual in the U.S. these days," Sayer reports.
- 17 Many cyclists choose a single section of a trail to ride, whether for a few hours or for many days, or return to ride new sections of the same trails for years until they complete an entire route. With trails like the Transamerica, which stretches more than 4,000 miles, or the Great Divide Mountain Bike Trail, that huffs over 200,000 feet of elevation gain, that's a good idea for most free-wheeling travelers.

Source 2: Top Five Places to Mountain Bike

by B. Puliti

- 18 Let's face it: We'd all like to spend days on end exploring every last spot of sweet single track this country has to offer. But we can't. So, after riding and researching some of the very best mountain bike destinations in the U.S., I've narrowed it down to five must-see spots.
1. Moab, Utah
- 19 There's a reason everyone talks about Moab. Touted as having "the greatest mountain biking on the planet," Moab's variety of trails and terrain means mountain bikers of all levels will have a fantastic time.
- 20 Perhaps the most popular mountain bike trail in the world, Moab's Slickrock trail welcomes more than 100,000 visitors per year. But it's not the only trail in town. Countless more, including Sovereign and Amasa Back, offer moderately technical options. Klondike Bluffs and the Intrepid Trail System, among others, offer a technically easy ride.

21 No matter what trail you choose, you'll be riding in the desert. So, plan accordingly.

2. Fruita, Colorado

22 Located in western Colorado's high desert, Fruita offers hundreds of miles of thrilling trails.

23 Ride the Book Cliffs area for wide-open views of the Grand Valley basin. Got some endurance? Chutes and Ladders, the classic run, offers steep climbs and descents that aren't for the weak. At 2,000 vertical feet above the basin, The Edge Loop—a designated International Mountain Bicycling Association Epic trail—offers tight single track¹.

24 Rockier and a bit more technical than trails at Book Cliffs, the Kokopelli Trails are geared toward intermediate to expert mountain bikers. Those looking for smaller scale riding can survey the natural beauty of Fruita's landscape while taking a spin on the 18 Road Trails.

3. Asheville, North Carolina

25 Nestled between the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains, the energetic town of Asheville offers as much excitement as its natural surroundings. But make no mistake, the real attractions lie outside downtown, within the western North Carolina mountains.

26 Look no further than the Pisgah Mountains for supreme mountain biking. Here, single track weaves past waterfalls and opens up to meadows.

27 Just a short distance southeast, more trails exist in DuPont State Forest. Unlike Pisgah's red-clay, DuPont's trails are a mix of grippy granite and sandy soil. Take a trip to see for yourself why Asheville has been nicknamed the Moab of the South!

4. East Burke, Vermont

28 East Burke may seem like it's in the middle of nowhere, but Vermont's Northeast Kingdom is just a couple hours from both Burlington and Montreal—and you better believe it's worth the drive. The tiny town was put on the map in part by Kingdom Trails, a mountain bike mecca that offers more than 100 miles of non-motorized trails.

29 It's not hard to see why the International Mountain Bicycling Association designated Kingdom Trails an "Epic" place to ride. The place is brimming with flowing single track, well-manicured terrain and beautiful landscape. Trails are easily identifiable with beginner, intermediate and advanced markings. Belted cows, maple syrup tubing, and sugar shacks dot the landscape for a truly New England experience.

5. Park City, Utah

30 Located in the Western edge of the Rocky Mountains, Park City offers some of the most breathtaking scenery around—literally. At 8,000 feet above sea level, the 20-or-so-mile Mid Mountain Trail boasts close to 3,000 feet of up-and-down altitude change.

31 The recommended Mid Mountain route starts at Silver Lake at Deer Valley Resort, but you can create your own ride by taking Sweeney North, Sweeney South, Daly Canyon or Deer Valley to Mid Mountain. No matter which route you take, prepare to climb!

32 Sure, some trails are mighty rocky and, yes, there are a few unrelenting uphill, but Park City offers a variety of trails, fit for both beginner and experienced mountain bikers.

¹ **single track** describes a type of mountain biking trail that is approximately the width of the bike.

Writing Prompt

You have been tasked with planning a large-group biking trip somewhere in the United States. As part of your planning, you must consider the characteristics of different trails. Using the information and examples found in the “Mountain Biking” passage set, write an informational essay that explains what characteristics people use to judge a good mountain bike trail.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

- read the passages;
- plan your response;
- write your response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to

- use evidence from multiple sources; and
- avoid overly relying on one source.

Your response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay.

