

A parent's guide to Star Assessments



STAR™
Math



STAR™
Reading

Q: What are Star Assessments?

A: [Star Assessments](#) are short tests that provide teachers with learning data. Star tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust to each answer your child provides. This helps teachers get the best data to help your child in the shortest amount of testing time (about one-third of the time other tests take).

Your child may take a Star test for early literacy, math, reading, or other subjects of their teacher's choice.

Q: What do teachers do with Star Assessments?

A: Teachers analyze the data they get from Star Assessments to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help. Star Assessments are heavily researched and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on his or her unique path to mastery.

Q: What do Star Assessments do for my child?

A: By pinpointing exactly what your child knows, teachers can personalize your child's practice to keep them growing. Plus, short test times ensure your child spends more time learning and less time testing.

Q: How can I help my child with their Star Assessments?

A: The best way to help your child with Star Assessments is to help them understand why they are taking the test: So their teacher knows exactly how to help them learn! For anxious children, it may be important to tell them that they cannot fail a Star test—as long as they do their best, the data generated from the test will help their teacher teach them more great things!

Q: Where do I go if I have questions?

A: Your child's teacher is the best source of additional information about your child's progress with Star Assessments. Renaissance is committed to protecting student privacy and will not share data with anyone outside your child's authorized school staff.

About Star Reading

Star Reading is a computer-adaptive test that measures student achievement on reading skills. As a student takes the assessment, the software selects items based on the student's responses. If the student answers the item correctly, the software increases the difficulty level of the next item. If the student answers incorrectly, the software lowers the difficulty level of the next item. By continually adjusting the difficulty of an item to what the student has shown she can or cannot do, the assessment is tailored to accurately measure each student's level of achievement. **Star Reading consists of 34 items and generally takes fewer than 30 minutes for the student to complete the assessment.**

About Star Math

Star Math is a computer-adaptive test that measures student achievement on math skills. As a student takes the assessment, the software selects items based on the student's responses. If the student answers the item correctly, the software increases the difficulty level of the next item. If the student answers incorrectly, the software lowers the difficulty level of the next item. By continually adjusting the difficulty of an item to what the student has shown she can or cannot do, the assessment is tailored to accurately measure each student's level of achievement. **Star Math consists of 34 items and takes approximately 20 minutes for the student to complete the assessment.**

Prior to Testing

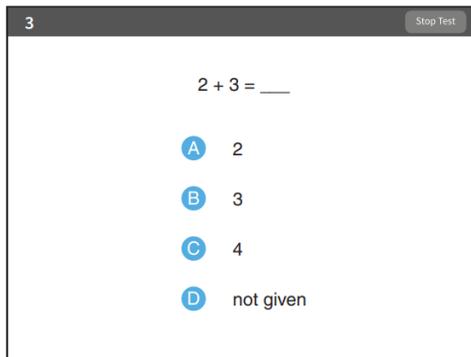
Preparation for testing is a key component of test fidelity. We recommend that you complete the following tasks prior to testing.

- ✓ **Pick a good time.** Try to avoid distracting locations or times when there are things going on in your home that can interfere with concentration.
- ✓ **Do not** permit your child to use a calculator or other devices.
- ✓ **Do not** assist them with any part of the assessment. Be encouraging! If they are stuck, tell them to make their best guess and move on.
- ✓ Ensure all testing **devices** are **working properly**. If you are administering the test with a tablet or laptop, make sure the battery is charged before testing.
- ✓ If any students are taking the Math test using audio, make sure the computer or tablet has a set of **headphones** plugged in and that the volume is set so the student can hear the audio clearly.
- ✓ Make sure you have **notepaper and pencils** for your child to use during the Math test.

STAR Math Test Format Overview

Please review the images and notes below to see what the Star Math test looks like.

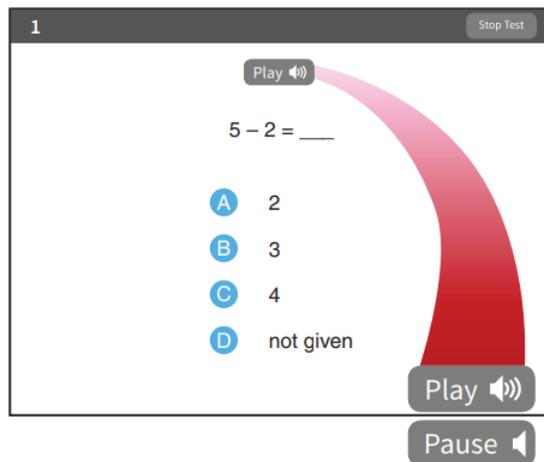
This is what the questions look like.



A screenshot of a Star Math test question interface. At the top left, the number '3' is displayed. At the top right, there is a 'Stop Test' button. The main content area shows the equation $2 + 3 = \underline{\quad}$ followed by four multiple-choice options: A 2, B 3, C 4, and D not given.

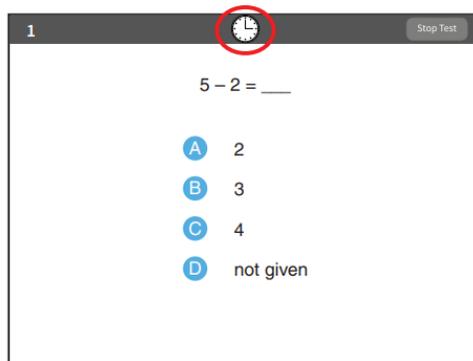
If you are using audio while taking the test, there will be controls in the upper part of the screen that you can use to pause, resume, or replay the audio for the current question.

You *do not* have to wait for the audio to finish before answering a question; you can enter your answer at any time.



A screenshot of a Star Math test question interface with audio controls. At the top left, the number '1' is displayed. At the top right, there is a 'Stop Test' button. The main content area shows the equation $5 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$ followed by four multiple-choice options: A 2, B 3, C 4, and D not given. A large red curved arrow points from the 'Play' button at the top to the 'Play' button at the bottom right. Below the 'Play' button is a 'Pause' button.

A clock in the top part of the screen means that time is almost up for this question. Choose your answer quickly.

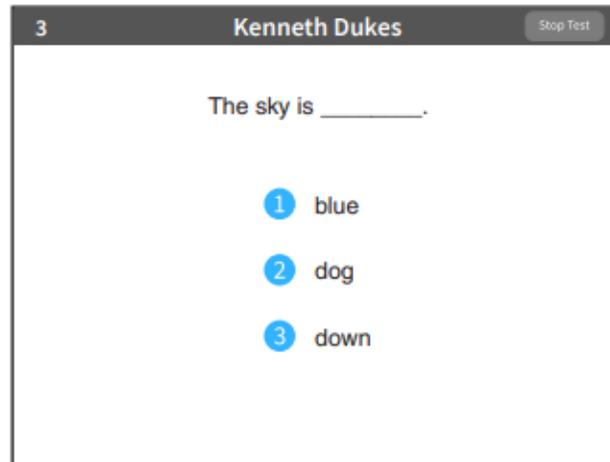


A screenshot of a Star Math test question interface with a clock icon. At the top left, the number '1' is displayed. At the top right, there is a 'Stop Test' button. A clock icon is circled in red in the top center of the screen. The main content area shows the equation $5 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$ followed by four multiple-choice options: A 2, B 3, C 4, and D not given.

STAR Reading Test Format Overview

Please review the images and notes below to see what the Star Reading test looks like.

This is what the fill-in-the-blank test questions look like.

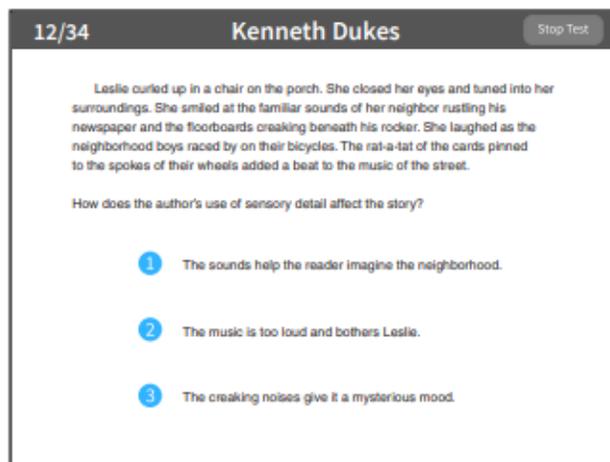


3 Kenneth Dukes Stop Test

The sky is _____.

- 1 blue
- 2 dog
- 3 down

This is what the short-answer test questions look like.



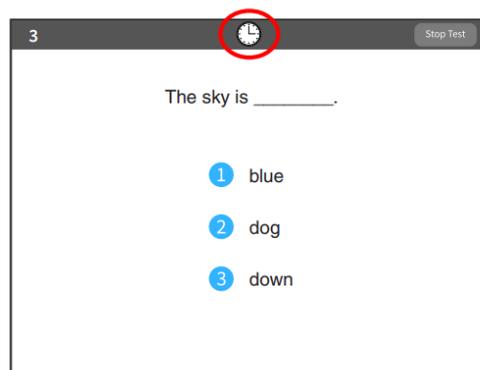
12/34 Kenneth Dukes Stop Test

Leslie curled up in a chair on the porch. She closed her eyes and tuned into her surroundings. She smiled at the familiar sounds of her neighbor rustling his newspaper and the floorboards creaking beneath his rocker. She laughed as the neighborhood boys raced by on their bicycles. The rat-a-tat of the cards pinned to the spokes of their wheels added a beat to the music of the street.

How does the author's use of sensory detail affect the story?

- 1 The sounds help the reader imagine the neighborhood.
- 2 The music is too loud and bothers Leslie.
- 3 The creaking noises give it a mysterious mood.

A clock in the top part of the screen means that time is almost up for this question. Choose your answer quickly.



3 Kenneth Dukes Stop Test

The sky is _____.

- 1 blue
- 2 dog
- 3 down

Pausing a Test

Monitor Password: admin

Situations may arise which interrupt a test. If this happens, you can pause the test so the student can return to it later OR stop the test entirely so the student can start over on a new test.

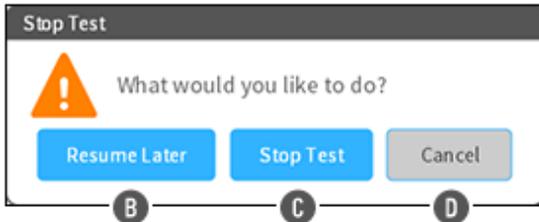
If you only want to pause the test, do not click Stop Test – this will delete completed work and your child will need to start the test over.

Keep in mind that pausing and resuming a test is a nonstandard administration; use this option only when necessary.

1. Click **Stop Test** in the upper-right corner of the screen **A**.



2. Click one of the following options:



Option	Choose When...	Notes
B Resume Later	You want to stop the test, but plan to come back to it later.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Test score will be recorded after test is resumed and completed.– Test will resume on the same question number, but the question presented will be different.– Resume Later can only be used during the actual test, not during the practice session. (Stop Test and Cancel are the only options available at that time.)
C Stop Test	You want to stop the test; you are finished with it and have no plans to come back to it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Test score will not be recorded.– The next time the student logs in to take a test, the student will begin a new test.

Directions to access STAR Reading and STAR Math from home:

1. Click on/ copy the link

(<https://global-zone50.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/308761>)

2. On the login page, Select **I'm a Student**



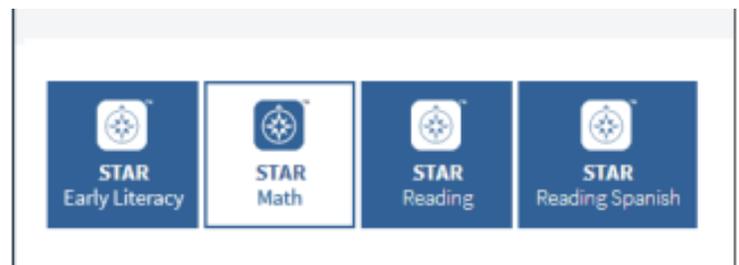
3. Enter your **user name** and **password**,
and then select **Log In**

User name: (4-digit ID#)

Password: student (all lowercase)



4. Select **either Star Reading or Star Math**.



5. Choose your class:

(Choose your school building and class)

**EXAMPLE: Cedar Knolls Academy, Ms. Innes-Cohort 2
2019 - 2020**



6. Complete the assessment **independently**. Please do not rush. Try your best!