

Learning from the Past: CLAS and the Common Core

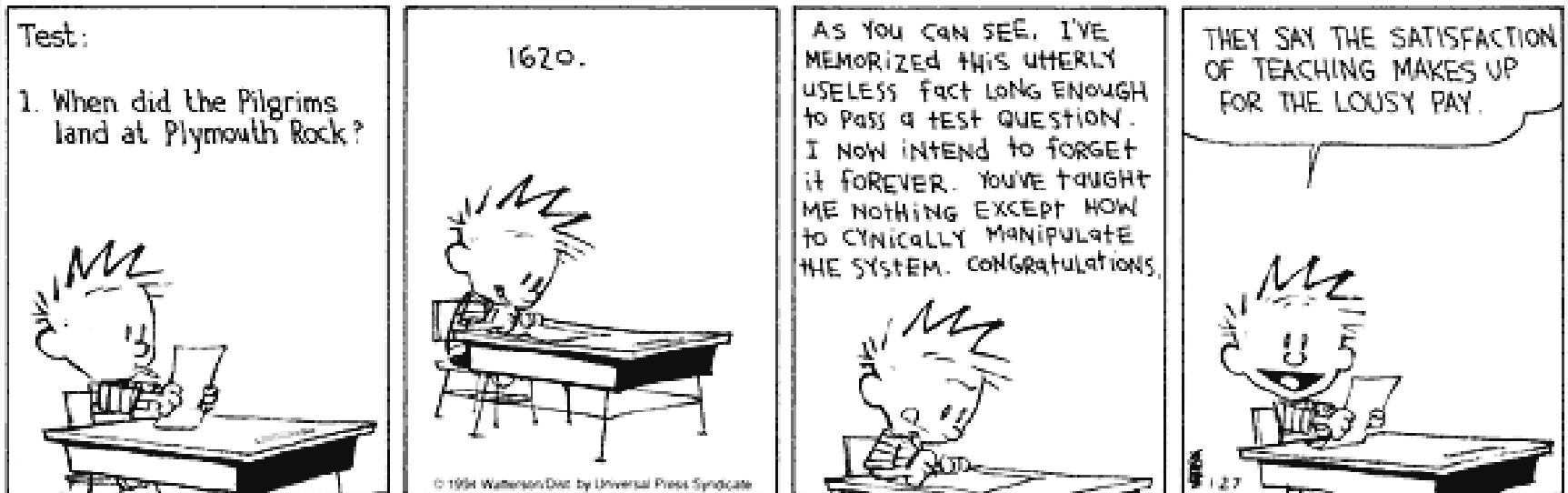
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California Educational Research Association

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Improving Student Assessment



Improving Student Assessment

36 If $m = 3$ and $n = 5$, what is the value of $4m + mn$?

A 180

B 27

C 20

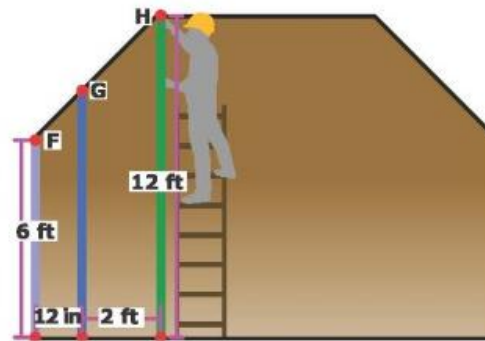
D 15

CSM00340

Improving Student Assessment

43057

A construction worker is using wooden beams to reinforce the back wall of a room.



Determine the height, in feet, of the beam that ends at point G. Explain how you found your answer.

Introducing the Brief

- What is the Collaborative?
- Engaged with the Common Core since 2010
- Meeting focused on assessment in June 2011

Introducing the Brief

- Data Sources
 - Research on CLAS
 - Media accounts of CLAS
 - Interviews conducted in spring 2012

The History of CLAS

- Administered in 1993 and 1994
- Aligned to the California Frameworks
- Assessment format
 - Multiple choice items
 - Constructed response items
 - Performance tasks

The History of CLAS

- Sources of criticism
 - Controversial assessment items

The History of CLAS



The History of CLAS

- Sources of criticism
 - Controversial assessment items
 - Low student scores

The History of CLAS

“The dismal showing on the CLAS test by even our state's brightest students is a clear example of the misleading nature of the test results and flies directly in the face of the significant number of California students who consistently score in the highest ranges.”

-Capistrano USD Superintendent James Fleming

The History of CLAS

- Sources of criticism
 - Controversial assessment items
 - Low student scores
 - Technical problems
- Funding for reauthorization vetoed in 1994

Introducing the Brief

- Assessment as an essential component of implementing the Common Core
- Timing: released September 2012
- 4 key lessons

Lesson 1

Implement immediate and sustained capacity-building strategies.

- Help teachers develop performance tasks and review student work
- Capitalize on existing efforts
- Demonstrate commitment
- Begin now

Lesson 2

Anticipate and respond to potential controversy surrounding assessment content and format.

- Transparency and clear messaging
- Prepare students and the public for new assessment formats

Lesson 3

Address technical and administrative challenges around assessment development, administration, and scoring.

- Anticipate and plan for technical challenges

Lesson 4

Build a constituency of support for new instructional and assessment efforts through a clear strategy of public engagement.

- Educate the public
- Expect imperfection and improvement
- Leverage teachers and leaders
- Anticipate, identify, and respond to criticism

Contact Information

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