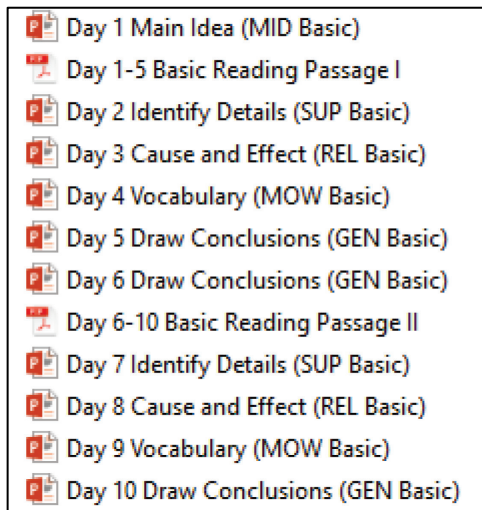


HOW TO USE Essential Skills Bell Ringers – Reading

About the Bell Ringers

The Essential Skills Reading bell ringers are organized by difficulty level, moving from easier skills to more difficult ones. The Reading bell ringers are based on twelve different passages. Each passage corresponds to five days of bell ringers.

The bell ringers are provided in 60 slideshow files. The reading passages are included in the slideshows and are also included as separate PDFs for printing purposes, as the sample below illustrates:



The slideshow file names include labels to guide you. Each file is titled with a general description, such as “Main Idea,” as well as a category and a level of difficulty. The five categories are:

- MID = Main Idea
- SUP = Supporting Details
- MOW = Vocabulary
- REL = Development
- GEN = Generalizations and Conclusions

The three levels of difficulty are:

- Basic
- Intermediate
- Advanced

The daily bell ringers include 1 to 3 problems for the students to work through on their own. The problems are then repeated with a solution for you to use in discussing the item with the class.


IDENTIFY DETAILS

In 1848, gold was discovered in California, and newspapers quickly spread the word. President James K. Polk confirmed the discovery in his 1848 State of the Union message to Congress. The president's words and the knowledge that taking the precious metal was completely unregulated in California were enough to trigger the greatest national mass migration in US history and a global gold fever now called the California Gold Rush.

5 People used their life savings, mortgaged their homes, and sold everything they had to travel to California in hopes of becoming wealthy. At the time gold was discovered, there were approximately 11,000 non-Native Americans living in California. Between the discovery and 1852, some 300,000 people, mostly young and male, traveled to California from all quarters.

2. According to the passage, how many people moved to California during the time between the discovery of gold and 1852?

F. 11,000
G. 300,000
H. 600 million
J. 10 billion



Identify details in a passage Level: Basic Skill Group: Supporting Details


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2. (G) *SUP Basic*
In line 7, the author mentions that 300,000 people moved to California.



Identify details in a passage Level: Basic Skill Group: Supporting Details

The bottom of each slide also includes the specific skill(s) the problems in the bell ringer are testing, as well as the category of the problem and the level of difficulty.

Identify details in a passage Level: Basic Skill Group: Supporting Details



For further review, locate the appropriate subject and level of difficulty in your *Essential Skills* teacher's guide. Preceding those problems in the *Essential Skills* guide you will find a short lesson introducing the skills tested by the group of items you are reviewing. Use that lesson or additional problems from the exercise to extend student learning.

Implementing the Bell Ringers

Depending on the number of days you are planning to use the bell ringers, you can implement them in a couple of different ways.

Option 1: 12 Weeks of Bell Ringers

Teach through the bell ringers for 60 days, using one bell ringer file each day. Each file includes 1 to 3 problems, plus the explanations for those problems.

If possible, print a copy of the weekly passage for each student so that students can see the full passage while answering questions.

Option 2: Selective Bell Ringer Coverage

Select bell ringers based on specific skills you want to focus on or a specific level of difficulty. For example, if you are only using the bell ringers on Fridays for a semester, you will need 12–14 bell ringers. You might decide to begin with Main Idea topics, or you might work through the basic material first.

If possible, print a copy of the relevant passage for each student so that students can see the full passage while answering questions.

If you have questions about implementing the *Essential Skills* bell ringers, call Cambridge's teacher hotline at 1-800-444-4373.