

TCAP/WA

Directions

In a few moments, you will see a passage and a prompt. You are to plan and write an essay about the passage according to the instructions provided in the prompt. This activity will show how well you write. Express your thoughts clearly and make your writing interesting to the reader. Your essay will be scored as a rough draft, but you should watch for careless errors.

Before writing, spend some time reading the passage, thinking about the prompt, and planning your thoughts.

WRITE ONLY ON THE PROMPT AND PASSAGE YOU ARE GIVEN.

The time you have for writing is 60 minutes.

Find Meaning with our State Symbols!

Do you know any of our Tennessee state plants? Have you ever seen them before? Tennessee has two state flowers and a state tree. They are the passionflower, the iris, and the tulip-poplar. They were each chosen as a state plant because there is a meaning that they stand for. The meanings make them special to people.

The Iris



Things can have different meanings to different people. To some people, if irises grow in their grandmother's flower bed, irises could remind them of home and family. The iris also represents beauty, wisdom, and friendship. It was named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow, because the flowers come in many colors. It has been grown by humans for over 3,500 years. It has been used in medicine, in toothpaste, and in perfume.

The Passionflower

The passionflower is one of the most symbolic of all our state plants. The passionflower represents faith, hope, love, and passion. Early explorers and missionaries in America saw it as a symbol of their religion because the number of flower parts each represented to them a different aspect of their faith. The fruit of this plant was eaten by the Native Americans and used to make jelly by settlers and pioneers.



The Tulip-poplar



The tulip-poplar represents independence, shelter, hardiness, and the pioneering spirit. This was one of the most important state plants in Tennessee's history because it was very important to the survival and success of early Tennesseans. It is one of our biggest and fastest growing trees and is still used for building a wide variety of things such as houses, silverware handles, and musical instruments. Daniel Boone even used a single tulip-poplar tree carved into a 60-foot canoe to carry his family out of Kentucky! The tulip-poplar also grows in rich soils, so settlers would choose the land where it grew to build their farms.

All of these plants were chosen to be special plants in Tennessee because of the things that they stand for and what they mean to people. They can be found growing in woods, fields, and flowerbeds right here in Tennessee. Also, a great place to find them is in a Tennessee State Park.

READ THIS WRITING PROMPT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR WRITING.

After reading the passage “Find Meaning with Our State Symbols!” write an essay in which you give your opinion about whether the three state symbols represent Tennessee well. Is each of the flowers or plants a good choice for a symbol of Tennessee? Use details from the passage to help you write your essay, and use reasons to support your point of view. Also, remember to use correct grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing your essay.

You may use the space below for prewriting. You will have a time limit of 60 minutes.