

# Comparison between MCAS and PARCC items

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January 14, 2015*

# MCAS ELA Grade 3

## Reading Comprehension Constructed Response Item (2013)



**Students read a passage about the Statue of Liberty. After responding to 10 multiple choice question, students are asked:**

***Based on the passage, explain why the Statue of Liberty is important to the people of the United States. Support your answer with important details from the passage.***



# PARCC ELA Grade 3

## Sample Research PBA Task



Students read an excerpt from *Eliza's Cherry Trees: Japan's Gift to America*. Students are asked:

**Part A.** Which statement best describes how the events in paragraphs 13 through 15 are related to each other?

- a. They explain how Washington, D.C., would change if cherry trees were planted around the city.
- b. They show that Eliza found a new way to get cherry trees planted in Washington, D.C.\*
- c. They compare the ways Eliza and Mrs. Taft tried to add beauty to Washington, D.C.
- d. They describe how Mr. Takamine gave Eliza the idea to bring cherry trees to Washington, D.C.



# PARCC ELA Grade 3 Sample PBA Task, continued



**Part B. Which sentence from the article best supports the answer in Part A?**

- a. “When they bloomed, the trees became clouds of pink blossoms.”**
- b. “She kept trying for more than twenty years!”**
- c. “She wrote a letter to the president’s wife, Mrs. Taft.”\***
- d. “With the help of Mr. Takamine, a generous Japanese scientist, they had the trees sent from Japan.”**



# PARCC ELA Grade 3

## Sample PBA Task, continued



Students read a second passage titled “*The Peanut Man*” and are then asked:

You have read two texts about famous people in American history who solved a problem by working to make a change.

Write an article for your school newspaper describing how Eliza and Carver faced challenges to change something in America.

- In your article, be sure to describe in detail why some solutions they tried worked and others did not work.
- Tell how the challenges each one faced were the same and how they were different.



# MCAS Math Grade 3 Multiple Choice Item (2013)



What is 8614 rounded to the nearest thousand?

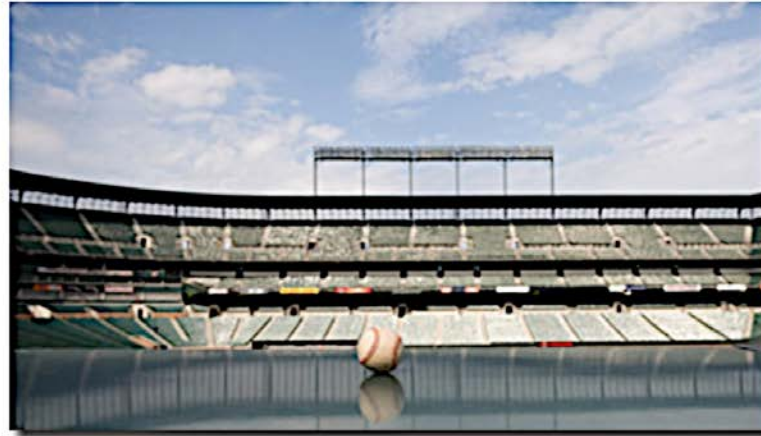
- A. 8000
- B. 8600
- C. 8700
- D. 9000



# PARCC Math Grade 3 Sample PBA Task, Part A



Baseball stadiums have different numbers of seats. Drag the tiles to arrange the stadiums from least to greatest number of seats.



San Francisco Giants' stadium: 41,915 seats	Washington Nationals' stadium: 41,888 seats	San Diego Padres' stadium: 42,445 seats
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# PARCC Math Grade 3 Sample PBA Task, Part B



Compare these statements from two students:

Jeff said, “I get the same number when I round all three numbers of seats in these stadiums.”

Sara said, “When I round them, I get the same number for two of the stadiums but a *different* number for the other stadium.”

Can Jeff and Sara both be correct? Explain how you know.





# PARCC Math Grade 3 Sample PBA Task, Part C



When rounded to the nearest hundred, the number of seats in Aces Baseball Stadium is 9,100.

What is the greatest number of seats that could be in the stadium? Explain how you know.

