Year 6 reading comprehension: Why the Sea Rises and Falls

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Easy

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 2 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–2.





Why the Sea Rises and Falls

If you spend a day at the beach, you may notice that the water creeps up the sand and then slides away again. These regular rises and falls of the sea are called tides. Tides are caused mainly by the pull of the moon’s gravity on the Earth’s oceans. The moon pulls on the water, and the ocean on the side of the Earth facing the moon bulges outwards. A second bulge forms on the opposite side of the Earth, so there are always two bulges of water. As the Earth spins, each coastline passes through both bulges about once a day, so most places have two high tides and two low tides. The time from one high tide to the next is a little more than 12 hours. The sun also pulls on the oceans, but it is so far away that its effect is weaker than the moon’s. When the sun, moon and Earth line up at new moon and full moon, their pulls combine and the tides are extra high and extra low. Boat owners read tide tables before they launch, because the water at a boat ramp can be too shallow at low tide.

1. What does ‘bulges’ mean in the fourth sentence?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** sinks inwards ○ **B** moves in circles ○ **C** swells outwards

○ **D** freezes solid

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2. High tide is at 6 am. When is the next high tide most likely?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** a little after 6 pm ○ **B** at about 9 am

○ **C** at 6 am the next day ○ **D** at exactly 6 pm

Answer key

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1. C — swells outwards

The text says: “The moon pulls on the water, and the ocean on the side of the Earth facing the moon bulges outwards.” The sentence around the word tells you what it means here.

2. A — a little after 6 pm

The text says: “The time from one high tide to the next is a little more than 12 hours.” Ask what the figure is counting or measuring.