



RLA Learning LAB

Reading and Writing TEKS-Based Games

Practice with purpose. Make decisions. Explain thinking. Apply the skill.

A Series of Standards-Specific RLA Practice Games using Social Studies and Science Content. Every game targets a named TEKS, on the SmartBoard for the whole class or on a device for independent practice.

[TBASE](#) / Reading Tools

Interactive Reading Tools

Practice answering reading questions and proving every answer with evidence from the text.

PURPOSE
Reading Tools help students answer a question and then prove the answer with evidence from the text.

HOW IT WORKS
Open a tool, choose a passage, and answer each question. Then tap the sentence in the passage that supports the answer.

THE GOAL
Students build the habit of proving every answer with the text.

Reading Experiences

A Series of Standards-Specific RLA Practice Games using Social Studies and Science Content

Choose an activity to begin. More reading activities will join this page as they are ready.

READING
Prove It!
Read a short passage, answer a STAAR/SST style question, then prove the answer by tapping the sentence that supports it. Support buttons are there whenever a

READING
Paraphrase It!
Read a short passage, pick the best paraphrase, spot the trap in tricky paraphrases, and write your own. Rounds get harder as students go, and results show which team

READING
Figure It Out!
Spot figurative language, figure out what it means, and explain why the author used it. Play on your own or teach the whole class.

What RLA Learning LAB Is

RLA Learning LAB is the interactive practice and application service in the Teach BIG® digital system. Students engage in digital learning experiences designed around individual RLA TEKS, with opportunities to try a strategy, receive feedback, reconsider a decision, and show increasing independence. The emphasis is on purposeful participation, not simply completing screens or selecting answers quickly.

These are not just fun and games. Students compare possible answers, select and justify evidence, connect ideas, examine language choices, and explain why one answer is stronger than another. Writing Workouts help the whole class climb the five thinking levels: Foundational, Emergent, Visible, Independent, and Reflective. *Answers may not be wrong, but our job is to find answers that are strong!*

How it works in a week

MONDAY

Model it

Open a Writing Workout on the SmartBoard. The class talks, the teacher types, and the tool shows the thinking level and the next best move.

TUESDAY

Try it

Students play a reading game such as Prove It! on their own and prove each answer with the text.

WEDNESDAY

Reconsider it

Feedback explains why a choice works or does not. Students try again with a support, never a given answer.

THURSDAY

Explain it

Students write their own paraphrase, thesis, or explanation and see which thinking level it shows.

FRIDAY

Own it

A fresh round or a new passage checks whether students can apply the skill with less support.

Supports without lowering the rigor

Supports help students reach the task while keeping the thinking with the student: reread a part, clarify directions, see a worked example, or use a sentence frame that leaves the reasoning to the student. For an inference task, a support might ask: *"What does the passage tell you? What can you reasonably figure out from those details?"*

Four Digital Services. One Connected Path to Stronger Reading and Writing.

Assess the need. Teach the standard. Practice with purpose. Check for growth. RLA Learning LAB is the practice step: students practice with purpose after the need is found and the standard is taught. These are not four unrelated purchases. They are four complementary services from The Writing Academy®, LLC, designed to connect what assessment reveals with what teachers teach and what students practice next. Each service has value on its own.

FROM THE TEACH BIG BLOG

From "I Practiced It" to "I Can Explain It"

Practice that only asks students to click an answer can hide what they understand. A student may choose correctly for the wrong reason, or choose incorrectly while thinking carefully. The LAB is built so the reason matters as much as the choice.

Each game asks students to commit to a decision and then explain it: tap the sentence that proves the answer, name the context clue,

or show how evidence supports a thesis. Feedback explains the relationship between the choice and the task, so a miss becomes a chance to reconsider rather than a wrong mark.

As the week moves forward, supports fade and the thinking level climbs. The goal is a student who can do the work alone and tell you why it works.

"What the child can do in cooperation today he can do alone tomorrow."

Lev Vygotsky, *Thought and Language* (English translation, 1962)

The Reading Games

Six reading experiences, each tied to a named TEKS student expectation and played with social studies and science passages.

READING Prove It!

IBASE / Reading Tools / Prove It!

Prove It!

Read a passage, answer a STAAR/SST-style question, then PROVE your answer by tapping the exact sentence that supports it.

PURPOSE Students practice answering reading questions AND proving their answer with text evidence from numbered paragraphs.	HOW IT WORKS Pick a grade and passage. Answer each multiple-choice question (up to 2 tries). Then tap the sentence in the passage that proves your answer.	SUPPORT Use the support buttons any time you need help. They show key words, point to the right paragraph, explain the question, or give a strategy tip.
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1. Choose your passage

Answer a STAAR/SST style question, then prove it by tapping the sentence in the passage that supports it.

TEKS 3rd 7C · 4th 7C · 5th 7C · 6-8 6C · 9th 5C

READING Paraphrase It!

IBASE / Reading Tools / Paraphrase It!

Paraphrase It!

Read a short passage, choose the best paraphrase, spot the trap in tricky paraphrases, and write your own.

PURPOSE Students practice the skill behind a strong paraphrase: same meaning, every important idea, same relationships and order, new words, and no added facts.	HOW IT WORKS Pick a grade. Then play three kinds of rounds: Pick the Best Paraphrase, Trap Detective, and Write Your Own. Levels get harder as you go.	SUPPORT Every round shows why the right paraphrase works and names the trap in each wrong choice. Written work gets instant, kind, specific feedback.
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Start a round

Student first name Grade

Pick the best paraphrase, spot the trap in tricky ones, and write your own as rounds get harder.

TEKS 3rd 7D · 4th 7D · 5th 7D · 6-8 6D · 9th 5D

READING Figure It Out!

IBASE / Reading Tools / Figure It Out!

Figure It Out!

Spot figurative language, figure out what it means, and explain why the author used it. Play on your own or teach the whole class.

PURPOSE Students practice spotting figurative language, figuring out what it means, and explaining why the author used it. Every wrong answer is built from a real reading trap.	HOW IT WORKS Pick a grade and a way to play. Work through four rounds: Spot It, What Does It Mean, Why Here, and Name the Tool. After every answer you learn why the right answer works and which trap each wrong answer set.	THREE QUESTIONS Before every answer, ask: What does it mean? What does it show? Why did the author use it?
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Get ready to play

Spot figurative language, figure out what it means, and explain why the author used it.

TEKS 3rd 10D · 4th 10D · 5th 10D · 6-8 9D · 9th 8D

READING FLUENCY Prosody Marks

FLUENCY PRACTICE SAMPLE | PROSODY MARKS

Read with marks that tell your voice what to do

Tap the question mark beside any sentence to learn why each word or phrase sounds that way.

Read with marks that tell your voice what to do: up, down, stretch, zoom, breathe, and big words.

TEKS 3rd 4 · 4th 4 · 5th 4 · 6-8 3

READING Truth or True

IBASE / Reading Tools / Truth or True

Truth or True

Does it stay in the story, or travel into life? Sort each statement and prove it with the passage.

PURPOSE Students tell the difference between a statement about the particular passage and a bigger idea about life that the passage supports.	HOW IT WORKS Choose a level. Read the passage. Sort each statement card. Every answer comes with a reason from the passage. Later rounds add statements that sound wise but are not supported.	REMEMBER A theme travels beyond the story, but it never leaves its evidence behind.
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► TEKS for this game

TRUE tells about this story. TRUTH reaches beyond this story, but the story must support it.

TRUE is in this passage. TRUTH reaches beyond this passage, supported by the text. Students sort it, support it, and send it beyond the story.

TEKS 3rd 8A · 4th 8A · 5th 8A · 6-8 7A · 9th 6A

READING Clue Me In!

IBASE / Reading Tools / Clue Me In!

Clue Me In!

Find it. Connect it. Prove it. Use DECADES context clues to find the evidence that answers the question.

PURPOSE DECADES is not "guess the word." Students read accurately, find the evidence, and prove their understanding.	HOW IT WORKS Choose a level. Read the passage and the question. Pick the sentence that best answers it. Then name the DECADES clue it uses. Clues can overlap, so more than one can be right.	WORD HELP If a word is hard to read, use its letters, sounds, and word parts, or ask for help reading it. Then use the text around it to understand its meaning.
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► TEKS for this game

▼ DECADES: Sources of Meaning and Evidence

Find it. Connect it. Prove it. Pick the sentence that answers the question, then name the DECADES context clue it uses.

TEKS 3rd 3B, 7C · 4th 3B, 7C · 5th 3B, 7C · 6-8 2B, 6C · 9th 2B, 5C

"Writing is thinking on paper."

William Zinsser, *Writing to Learn* (1988)

The Writing Games and Writing Workouts

Whole group Writing Workouts for the SmartBoard, an independent thesis game, and short games that run while TBASE scores an essay.

WRITING, INDEPENDENT

Thesis Time!

Sort prompts in the WHY or HOW game, then write a thesis and get a thinking level with a next step.

TEKS 3rd 12B · 4th 12B · 5th 12B · 6-8 11B · 9th 10B

WRITING WORKOUTS, WHOLE GROUP

Check MATE: Thesis Next Move

Build a thesis for a real prompt and get Red, Yellow, or Green with the next best move.

TEKS 3rd 11B(i) · 4th 11B(i) · 5th 11B(i) · 6-8 10B(i) · 9th 9B

WRITING WORKOUTS, WHOLE GROUP

OnRAMP: Main Idea and Theme

Choose the strongest main idea or theme, climb one level higher, then write a global or reflective statement.

TEKS 3rd 6G, 8A · 4th 6G, 8A · 5th 6G, 8A · 6-8 5G, 7A · 9th 4G, 6A

WRITING WORKOUTS, WHOLE GROUP

Evidence Detective: CSI Evidence

Choose evidence that Connects, Supports, and lets us Infer more ideas, with a CSI score for each choice.

TEKS 3rd 7C · 4th 7C · 5th 7C · 6-8 6C · 9th 5C

WRITING WORKOUTS, WHOLE GROUP

Explanation Station: DEEP FACTS

Choose explanations that show how evidence proves the thesis and name each DEEP FACTS type.

TEKS 3rd 11B(ii) · 4th 11B(ii) · 5th 11B(ii) · 6-8 10B(ii) · 9th 9B

WHILE YOU WAIT

Sort It! and WHY or HOW?

Short TEKS-based games inside TBASE essay scoring: sort sentences by job, and sort prompts by WHY or HOW.

TEKS 3rd 11B(i) · 4th 11B(i) · 5th 11B(i) · 6-8 10B(i) · 9th 9B

“The greatest sign of success for a teacher ... is to be able to say, ‘The children are now working as if I did not exist.’”

Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind* (1949)

Sample Screens

Real screens from the live games. Feedback explains the relationship between the student's choice and the task.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Truth or True

Truth or True

Does it stay in the story, or travel into life? Sort each statement and prove it with the passage.

PURPOSE
Students tell the difference between a statement about this particular passage and a bigger idea about life that the passage supports.

HOW IT WORKS
Choose a level. Read the passage. Sort each statement card. Every answer comes with a reason from the passage. Later rounds add statements that sound wise but are not supported.

REMEMBER
A theme travels beyond the story and leaves its evidence.

TEKS for this game

TRUE tells about this story. TRUTH reaches beyond this story, but the story must support it.

Dream (excerpt)
LITERARY, LEVEL 2

64 I tugged gently on Mama's hand.

65 "Can kids help make the future better too?"

66 She looked at me with a thoughtful expression.

67 "Of course," she said. "You may be young, but the choices you make still matter."

68 "What kind of choices?"

69 "Small ones at first," she explained. "You can be kind when someone feels lonely. You can help when someone is struggling. You can be honest, responsible, and respectful. You can make someone feel included."

STATEMENT 2 OF 8
Read the statement card. Which kind of truth does it tell?

Small acts of kindness tell about people.

TRUE: In This Passage
Tells about the particular people, events, or places in the story.

TRUTH: Beyond This Passage
A bigger idea about life or people that the passage supports.

Truth or True: sort a statement as TRUE in this passage or TRUTH beyond it, then prove it.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Clue Me In!

Clue Me In!

Read a short passage, choose the best paraphrase, spot the trap in tricky paraphrases, and write your own.

PURPOSE
Students practice the skill behind a strong paraphrase: same meaning, every important idea, same relationships and order, new words, and no added facts.

HOW IT WORKS
Pick a grade. Then play three kinds of rounds: Pick the Best Paraphrase, Trap Detective, and Write Your Own. Levels get harder as you go.

SUPPORT
Every round shows a strong paraphrase and a weak one. Students choose the strong one and write their own. Written work gets feedback.

MISSION 1 OF 5
What does Mama mean by this sentence that best explains her choice?

STEP 1: FIND IT. PICK THE BEST PARAPHRASE.

"I considered each idea carefully."

"You can be kind when someone feels lonely."

"She looked at me with a thoughtful expression."

"I tugged gently on Mama's hand."

STEP 2: CONNECT IT. WHICH CLUE DOES IT FIT?

D Dialogue

C Comparison and Contrast

D Definition/Explanation

S Synonyms and Antonyms

CLUE CONNECTED: D, Dialogue
Mama explains small choices also works as a Definition/Explanation. Clues that also fit this evidence.

Clue Me In!: find the best evidence, then name the DECADES context clue.

TBASE / Writing Tools / Writing Workouts / Check MATE

Check MATE

Whole group, Tier 1, on the SmartBoard. Students tell the teacher what to type, and Check MATE shows what they did well and their next best move.

PURPOSE
Students build a thesis (central idea) together for a real prompt from our Teacher Lesson Plans and Student Workbooks, then upgrade it one move at a time.

HOW IT WORKS
Choose the grade, cluster, module, passage, and prompt. Type the class thesis, click **What is my next move?**, and try again up to three times. Read the passage first.

THE ZONES
Green has the Thesis. **Yellow** has the Answer. **Red** is off target.

1. Choose your prompt

Grade: Grade 3 Cluster: Prepare Module: Module 1 Passage: The Mystery of the Traveling Shell

Prompt: HOW: Explain how Emsy's investigation shows that one small object can reveal a bigger story.

HOW prompt Grade 3 • Prepare • Module 1 • The Mystery of the Traveling Shell

Explain how Emsy's investigation shows that one small object can reveal a bigger story.

Check MATE: a whole group thesis workout with Red, Yellow, or Green feedback.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Paraphrase It!

Paraphrase It!

Read a short passage, choose the best paraphrase, spot the trap in tricky paraphrases, and write your own.

PURPOSE
Students practice the skill behind a strong paraphrase: same meaning, every important idea, same relationships and order, new words, and no added facts.

HOW IT WORKS
Pick a grade. Then play three kinds of rounds: Pick the Best Paraphrase, Trap Detective, and Write Your Own. Levels get harder as you go.

SUPPORT
Every round shows a strong paraphrase and a weak one. Students choose the strong one and write their own. Written work gets feedback.

Start a round

Student first name: First name Grade: Grade 3

HOW A STRONG PARAPHRASE WORKS
Same meaning + Important ideas + Same relationships + Same order + New words, minus Added information

- Same meaning:** it says the same thing as the original
- Important ideas:** it keeps every big idea
- Same relationships:** who does what stays the same
- Same order:** events stay in the same order
- New words:** it uses your own words
- No added information:** it does not add new facts

Watch out: a wrong paraphrase often keeps something true and changes one small part. Protect the meaning first, then change the words.

Paraphrase It!: what a strong paraphrase keeps, and the traps to watch.

"I believe that education, therefore, is a process of living and not a preparation for future living."

John Dewey, *My Pedagogic Creed* (1897)

More Game Screens

Every game opens with its purpose, how it works, and the goal, so the teacher and students know the skill before they play.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Truth or True

Truth or True

Does it stay in the story, or travel into life? Sort each statement and prove it with the passage.

PURPOSE
Students tell the difference between a statement about this particular passage and a bigger idea about life that the passage supports.

HOW IT WORKS
Choose a level. Read the passage. Sort each statement card. Every answer comes with a reason from the passage. Later rounds add statements that sound wise but are not supported.

REMEMBER
A theme travels beyond the story, but it never leaves its evidence behind.

TEKS for this game

TRUE tells about this story. TRUTH reaches beyond this story, but the story must support it.

1. Choose your level

Level 1
2 rounds

Level 2
2 rounds

Level 3
2 rounds

2. Choose your round

Round 1

Round 2

Truth or True: sort each statement as TRUE in this passage or TRUTH beyond it.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Prove It!

Prove It!

Read a passage, answer a STAAR/SST-style question, then PROVE your answer by tapping the exact sentence that supports it.

PURPOSE
Students practice answering reading questions AND proving their answer with text evidence from numbered paragraphs.

HOW IT WORKS
Pick a grade and passage. Answer each multiple-choice question (up to 2 tries). Then tap the sentence in the passage that proves your answer.

SUPPORT
Use the support buttons any time you need help. They show key words, point to the right paragraph, explain the question, or give a strategy tip.

1. Choose your passage

Grade
Grade 3

Passage
The Mighty Monarchs (informational)

Start Reading

Prove It!: answer the question, then tap the sentence that proves it.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Figure It Out!

Figure It Out!

Spot figurative language, figure out what it means, and explain why the author used it. Play on your own or teach the whole class.

PURPOSE
Students practice spotting figurative language, figuring out what it means, and explaining why the author used it. Every wrong answer is built from a real reading trap.

HOW IT WORKS
Pick a grade and a way to play. Work through four rounds: Spot It, What Does It Mean, Why Here, and Name the Tool. After every answer you learn why the right answer works and which trap each wrong answer set.

THREE QUESTIONS
Before every answer, ask: What does it mean? What does it show? Why did the author use it?

Get ready to play

Student first name
Your first name

Grade
Grade 3

Play on my own

Teach the whole class

Before every answer, ask: What does it mean? What does it show? Why did the author use it?

Figure It Out!: spot figurative language and explain why the author used it.

FLUENCY PRACTICE SAMPLE | PROSODY MARKS

Read with marks that tell your voice what to do

Tap the question mark beside any sentence to learn why each word or phrase sounds that way.

Student Key

Prosody is the way your voice matches the meaning of the words. These six marks show you where to climb, where to drop, where to hold on, where to speed up, and where to breathe.

Voice Up
↑
Let your voice climb at the end of a question or an exciting word.

Voice Down
↓
Let your voice drop at the end of a statement. The thought is finished.

Prosody Marks: marks that tell each reader how to use their voice.

TBASE / Writing Tools / Writing Workouts / OnRAMP

OnRAMP: Main Idea and Theme

Whole group, Tier 1, on the SmartBoard. Answers may not be wrong, but our job is to find answers that are strong!

PURPOSE
Students climb the five thinking levels for a main idea or a theme, then write their own global or reflective statement for a low stamina passage.

HOW IT WORKS
Choose a passage and Main Idea or Theme. The class picks one of five answers, sees its thinking level and an OnRAMP question, then picks again. Last, the class types a global statement.

THE LEVELS
● Red Foundational, ■ Orange Emergent, ▼ Yellow Visible, ▲ Green Independent, ◆ Blue Reflective. None of the answers are wrong; each shows a different level of thinking.

1. Choose your passage

Grade
Grade 3

Cluster
Prepare

Module
Module 1

Low stamina passage
The Recess Question

Show the passage

2. Main idea or theme?

OnRAMP: climb from a main idea to a global or reflective statement.

TBASE / Writing Tools / Writing Workouts / Explanation Station

Explanation Station

Whole group, Tier 1, on the SmartBoard. Answers may not be wrong, but our job is to find answers that are strong!

PURPOSE
Students practice explaining evidence with the DEEPFACTS explanation types, so the explanation shows how the evidence proves the thesis (central idea).

HOW IT WORKS
Level 1: choose an explanation and learn which DEEPFACTS type it uses. Level 2: the class writes its own, and the tool names the type or asks us to try explaining it again.

SUPPORT
Tap Activate support now for the DEEPFACTS chart: all nine explanation types, what each one means, and an example.

1. Choose your passage

Grade
Grade 3

Cluster
Prepare

Module
Module 1

Low stamina passage
The Recess Question

Show the passage

Grade 3 • Prepare • Module 1 • The Recess Question

PROMPT

Explain

Explanation Station: name the DEEP FACTS move that explains the evidence.

The TEKS Map

Each game is tied to the same skill across grade bands. Codes are 19 TAC Chapter 110 student expectations.

Game	Format	3rd	4th	5th	6 to 8	9th
Prove It!	Reading	7C	7C	7C	6C	5C
Paraphrase It!	Reading	7D	7D	7D	6D	5D
Figure It Out!	Reading	10D	10D	10D	9D	8D
Prosody Marks	Reading fluency	4	4	4	3	
Truth or True	Reading	8A	8A	8A	7A	6A
Clue Me In!	Reading	3B, 7C	3B, 7C	3B, 7C	2B, 6C	2B, 5C
Thesis Time!	Writing, independent	12B	12B	12B	11B	10B
Check MATE: Thesis Next Move	Writing Workouts, whole group	11B(i)	11B(i)	11B(i)	10B(i)	9B
OnRAMP: Main Idea and Theme	Writing Workouts, whole group	6G, 8A	6G, 8A	6G, 8A	5G, 7A	4G, 6A
Evidence Detective: CSI Evidence	Writing Workouts, whole group	7C	7C	7C	6C	5C
Explanation Station: DEEP FACTS	Writing Workouts, whole group	11B(ii)	11B(ii)	11B(ii)	10B(ii)	9B
Sort It! and WHY or HOW?	While you wait	11B(i)	11B(i)	11B(i)	10B(i)	9B

Prosody Marks follows the fluency standard (strand 4) and has no English I code. 3rd to 5th grade = 110.5 to 110.7; 6 to 8 = 110.22 to 110.24; 9th = English I (110.36).

Privacy and Accessibility



No personal student data

We do not collect personal data or email addresses from any student at any time. Students use teacher assigned identifiers, such as Dolphin 1, never names.



US hosted

Student work is processed and hosted in the United States.



Accessible for every learner

Tested against WCAG 2.1 AA, with read aloud where it fits the skill and captions on our videos.



Teacher controlled

Teachers create classes and assign identifiers. No student account needs an email address.

What the test asks for: STAAR Grade 4 Reading Language Arts

41

questions on the test

52

total points

10

points from one extended constructed response (the essay)

24 to 26

points from the Writing reporting category

55 to 75%

of points come from readiness standards

Almost half of the points are writing, and one essay alone is worth 10 of 52 points. A student who reads well but cannot explain evidence in writing leaves points on the table. That is why every Teach BIG service practices the thinking students must show in writing.

Source: Texas Education Agency, STAAR Grade 4 Reading Language Arts Blueprint, effective school year 2022 to 2023 (published August 2022). Grades 3 and 5 blueprints are available from TEA.

Pricing and Purchasing

Plan	Price	What it includes
RLA Learning LAB (this magazine)	\$99 per year	Reading and writing TEKS-based interactive games for the teacher and 25 students.
Daily Decks	\$99 per year	TEKS-based bell ringer Triplets: daily thinking-leveled slides, a teacher script for every slide, and student tracking pages.
TBASE	\$149 per year	Teach BIG Automated Scoring Engine: essay scoring with teacher, class, student, and family reports for the teacher and 25 students.
OnSTAGE	\$149 per year	Online Reading Student Testing and Growth Evaluation: the reading practice assessment platform for the teacher and 25 students.
Additional students	+\$5 each	Per additional student for RLA Learning LAB, TBASE, and OnSTAGE.
Additional adult	+\$49	Adds an administrator, specialist, or second teacher. One price covers all registered services.
Complete Set	\$479 per year	All four digital platforms for one teacher and 25 students, with one administrator FREE, for one year from purchase.

RLA Learning LAB: Adds students at +\$5 each. The Trifecta curriculum (Teacher Lesson Plans, interactive student workbooks, and daily lesson slides) is sold separately.

Budget codes

Districts commonly purchase from **RLA**, **Social Studies**, or **Technology** budgets. Every passage is built on social studies and science content.

IMRA documentation

We are also in the midst of the IMRA process and have all the appropriate documentation for districts to self-approve based on our TEKS correlations, accommodation adaptability, privacy, and family communication requirements.

The Complete Set at a glance

\$496

if all four platforms are bought individually

\$479

for the Complete Set, one teacher and 25 students

\$49

administrator seat included FREE with the Complete Set

4

services: assess, teach, practice, and check for growth

Support the learner. Preserve the rigor. Keep the learning connected.



See it for yourself

Scan the code or visit tbase.teachbig.com/try to try the tools and see sample reports.

Office: 281-549-4466 | **Web:** teachbig.com | **Try:** tbase.teachbig.com/try

Relieving stress. Raising scores.