

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Illustrating 7.RP.A.3

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Chichén Itzá was a Mayan city in what is now Mexico. The picture shows El Castillo, also known as the pyramid of Kukulcán, which is located in the ruins of Chichén Itzá.



The pyramid is approximately 30 meters tall, including a temple with 91 steps leading up to it.

What additional information do you need to know to estimate the height, in meters, above the ground, of the 50<sup>th</sup> step? Select all that apply.

- A. Each of the steps has approximately the same height.
- B. The base of the pyramid is about 55 meters wide.
- C. The height of the temple is about 6 meters.
- D. The base of the pyramid is a square.

### Answer Key

A, C

### Elaboration on Alignment

While this problem could have given more information in the item stem and then simply asked “what is the height of the 50<sup>th</sup> step,” it is aligned to Standard for Mathematical Practice 4 and designed to help students grapple with mathematics problems that are more like those in the real world where additional information is needed or assumptions must be made to formulate a response. By connecting to the content of the RP domain, the item uses major work of the grade to strengthen students’ engagement with the Standards for Mathematical Practice.

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