Cite Evidence From the Text

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail that supports each claim.

READ THIS FIRST

The Shinkansen Keeps Time

In 1964, Japan opened a new kind of railway between Tokyo and Osaka. Its trains had long, rounded noses and could travel about 130 miles per hour. People called the line the Shinkansen, which means "new main line." Before it opened, the trip between the two cities took about six and a half hours. The new train made it in four hours, and later in less than three.

Today, Shinkansen trains run across much of Japan. Some reach speeds of nearly 200 miles per hour. Yet the trains are famous for more than speed. They are also known for being on time. On the busiest line, the average train arrives less than a minute behind schedule. Railway workers keep careful records of every delay, even ones that last only seconds.

Staying on time takes teamwork. At Tokyo Station, a train may sit at the platform for only about twelve minutes before it heads out again. A cleaning crew has about seven minutes of that time. Each worker cleans one car. The workers pick up trash, wipe tables and turn every seat to face the new direction. When they finish, the crew lines up on the platform and bows to the waiting passengers.

Engineers have also solved problems along the way. In the 1990s, faster trains made a loud boom when they rushed out of tunnels. Neighbors complained about the noise. One engineer was a bird watcher. He thought about the kingfisher, a bird that dives into water with barely a splash. His team gave a new train a long, pointed nose shaped like the bird's beak. The boom grew quieter, and the train used less power.

Japan has many earthquakes, so safety matters, too. Sensors near the coast and along the tracks can sense the first shaking of an earthquake. Within seconds, power to the trains is cut, and they slow to a stop. Since 1964, the Shinkansen has carried billions of passengers. In all that time, no passenger has died in an accident on the tracks.

1. A reader claims that the Shinkansen made travel between Tokyo and Osaka much faster. Which detail best supports this?

   The first trains had long, rounded noses.

   Sensors near the coast can sense the first shaking.

   Railway workers keep careful records of every delay.

   The trip fell from six and a half hours to four.

2. A reader claims that the cleaning crew must work quickly. Which detail best supports this?

The train heads out again from Tokyo Station.

The workers pick up trash, wipe tables and turn seats.

The crew lines up on the platform and bows to passengers.

The crew gets about seven minutes to clean a train.

3. A reader claims that nature gave an engineer an idea. Which detail best supports this?

The first trains of 1964 had long, rounded noses.

Neighbors complained about the loud boom from the tunnels.

A train's nose was shaped like a kingfisher's beak.

Japan has many earthquakes, so safety matters, too.

4. A reader claims that the new nose solved more than one problem. Which detail is the best evidence?

The engineer who thought of the bird was a bird watcher.

Some trains reach speeds of nearly 200 miles per hour.

The boom grew quieter and the train used less power.

Neighbors complained about the noise from the tunnels.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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