Cite Evidence From the Text

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

Living on Mars Time

When NASA landed two rovers on Mars in 2004, the people who drove them had to change their whole lives. The rovers, named Spirit and Opportunity, were each about the size of a golf cart. They ran on solar power. They worked during the Martian day and rested at night. So the team on Earth had to follow the Martian clock, too.

That sounds simple, but there is a catch. A day on Mars, called a sol, lasts about 24 hours and 40 minutes. That is only 40 minutes longer than a day on Earth. Yet those minutes add up quickly. If the team started work at 9:00 one morning, they would start at 9:40 the next day. After about a week, they would begin work in the early afternoon. A few weeks later, they would be starting in the middle of the night. Over three months, the team's start time crept all the way around the clock more than twice.

Team members tried many tricks to keep up. Some wore special watches that ran slow, so the dial would match the time on Mars. Others covered their bedroom windows with black plastic so they could sleep during sunny afternoons. The team kept the windows in their workroom covered, too. Some people hung charts that showed Earth time and Mars time side by side. Even so, many team members felt tired and foggy. One engineer said she sometimes lost track of what day it was on Earth.

Families had to adjust as well. Some team members ate breakfast while their children ate dinner. Years later, an engineer on a newer rover team took his whole family on Mars time for a month. They stayed up late, went on outings in the middle of the night and watched a meteor shower before dawn. The family treated it as a summer adventure.

Living on Mars time could not last forever. After about three months, most of the 2004 team switched back to Earth time. By then, the rovers had already finished their planned missions. Yet the rovers kept working. Opportunity explored Mars for almost fifteen years, far longer than anyone expected. Spirit lasted about six years, even though each mission was planned for only about ninety sols.

Newer rover teams have also followed Mars time for their first few months. Those early weeks are when every minute of Martian sunlight matters most. A rover that has just landed has many tests to run and new places to explore.

1. A reader infers that the team followed Mars time because the rovers depended on sunlight. Which detail best supports this?

   The rovers ran on solar power and rested at night.

   Some team members wore watches that ran slow.

   A sol lasts about 24 hours and 40 minutes.

   Opportunity explored Mars for almost fifteen years.

2. A reader infers that the team's start time drifted later each day. Which detail best supports this?

   Others covered their bedroom windows with black plastic.

   Some team members wore special watches that ran slow.

   Newer rover teams follow Mars time for a few months.

   Work that began at 9:00 one day began at 9:40 the next.

3. A reader infers that the first weeks after a landing are the busiest. Which detail best supports this?

   A new rover has many tests to run and places to explore.

   A sol on Mars lasts about 24 hours and 40 minutes.

   Opportunity explored Mars for almost fifteen years.

   Some people hung charts showing Earth time and Mars time.

4. A reader infers that Mars time did not last for the whole mission. Which detail best supports this?

   After three months, most of the team went back to Earth time.

   Spirit lasted about six years, though planned for ninety sols.

   Some people hung charts showing Earth time and Mars time.

   Others covered bedroom windows with black plastic to sleep.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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