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

Saving the Leaning Tower

The Leaning Tower of Pisa, in Italy, began to tilt soon after builders started it in 1173. It was planned as a bell tower for the city's cathedral, which stands right beside it. The ground beneath it is soft clay and sand. After the first three floors went up, one side began to sink. Then wars and money troubles stopped the work for nearly a hundred years.

That long pause may have saved the tower. During those years, the soil under it slowly packed down and grew firmer. When builders returned, they tried to fix the lean by making the upper floors slightly taller on the low side. They had to work carefully, because each new floor added more weight to the soft side. As a result, the tower is not straight even along its own length. It curves a little, like a banana. The tower was finally finished around 1372.

For centuries, the lean kept growing a little each year, by about one millimeter. By 1990, the top hung about 15 feet out from where it would be if the tower stood straight. Engineers warned that the tower could fall within a few decades. The government closed it to visitors that year.

A team of experts from several countries studied the problem. They used computer models to test ideas before trying them on the real tower. Some early ideas made things worse. In 1995, workers tried to freeze the ground with a very cold liquid so they could fix anchors in it. The tower suddenly leaned farther, and the work was stopped.

The team then tried a gentler plan. On the high north side, workers drilled slanted holes under the foundation. Bit by bit, they pulled out small amounts of soil. As the soil was removed, the north side slowly sank. Each day, sensors measured how far the tower had moved, and the team adjusted its plan. The tower straightened by about 18 inches. Steel cables held it steady while the work went on. The whole job took about two years, from 1999 to 2001.

The tower reopened in 2001. Engineers expected it to stay stable for at least 200 years. Visitors may again climb to the top in small groups. Since then, sensors have shown that it has even straightened a little more on its own.

The team never wanted to make the tower stand straight. Visitors love to take photos pretending to hold the leaning tower up. A straight tower in Pisa would not draw millions of visitors. Their goal was to keep the famous lean while making the tower safe.

1. A reader infers that fixing the tower took patience and care. Which detail best supports this?

   The tower reopened to visitors in 2001 for small groups.

   The government closed the tower to visitors in 1990.

   A straight tower would not draw millions of visitors.

   Workers took out small amounts of soil, bit by bit.

2. A reader infers that adding weight to the soft side made the lean worse. Which detail best supports this?

   The tower was planned as a bell tower for the cathedral.

   Wars and money troubles stopped the work for years.

   Each new floor added more weight to the soft side.

   The tower was finally finished around the year 1372.

3. A reader infers that the freezing plan was risky for the tower. Which detail best supports this?

   A team of experts from several countries studied it.

   Workers hoped to fix anchors in the frozen ground.

   The team used computer models to test ideas first.

   The tower suddenly leaned farther, so work stopped.

4. A reader infers that people value the tower's lean. Which detail best supports this?

   The tower reopened in 2001 after the repair work was done.

   Visitors take photos pretending to hold the tower up.

   Visitors may again climb to the top in small groups.

   The tower was planned as a bell tower for the cathedral.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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That long pause may have saved the tower. During those years, the soil under it slowly packed down and grew firmer. When builders returned, they tried to fix the lean by making the upper floors slightly taller on the low side. They had to work carefully, because each new floor added more weight to the soft side. As a result, the tower is not straight even along its own length. It curves a little, like a banana. The tower was finally finished around 1372.

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