Cite Evidence From the Text

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail that best shows or explains each idea.

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. Which detail best explains why the team's work started 40 minutes later each day?

   Team members slept through sunny Earth afternoons.

   A Mars day is 40 minutes longer than an Earth day.

   The rovers ran on solar power and rested at night.

   Some team members wore watches that ran slow.

2. Which detail from the second paragraph helps explain why team members covered their bedroom windows?

   NASA landed two rovers on Mars in the year 2004.

   Spirit and Opportunity were the size of golf carts.

   The rovers ran on solar power and rested at night.

   A few weeks later, they would start in the middle of the night.

3. Which detail best explains why the 2004 team could switch back to Earth time?

   Opportunity kept exploring Mars for almost fifteen years.

   The rovers had finished their planned missions by then.

   An engineer's family spent a month on Mars time as an adventure.

   Some team members wore special watches that ran slow.

4. Which detail best explains why newer rover teams follow Mars time at first?

   Many team members felt tired and foggy on Mars time.

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

   Every minute of Martian sunlight matters in the first weeks.

   Opportunity explored Mars for almost fifteen years.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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