Cite Evidence From the Text

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

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

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. Which detail best shows that the Shinkansen is faster today than in 1964?

   In 1964, the new line first ran between Tokyo and Osaka.

   A cleaning crew has about seven minutes to work.

   Before it opened, the trip took about six and a half hours.

   Some trains today reach nearly 200 miles per hour.

2. Which detail best shows that the Shinkansen had a problem to solve in the 1990s?

Sensors near the coast and along tracks can sense shaking.

The line opened between Tokyo and Osaka back in 1964.

Faster trains made a loud boom coming out of tunnels.

Each worker on a cleaning crew is responsible for one car.

3. Which detail best shows that the Shinkansen is popular?

Sensors near the coast can sense the first shaking.

A cleaning crew has about seven minutes to clean a train.

It has carried billions of passengers since 1964.

Some trains reach speeds of nearly 200 miles per hour.

4. Which detail best shows that the Shinkansen is known for being on time?

Sensors near the coast sense the first shaking.

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

Some trains today reach speeds of nearly 200 miles per hour.

On the busiest line, the average train is under a minute late.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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