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

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. Which detail helps explain why removing soil straightened the tower?

   Steel cables held the tower steady.

   As soil came out, the high north side sank.

   Workers froze the ground with a cold liquid.

   Sensors show it has straightened more.

2. Which detail best explains why the tower curves like a banana?

   By 1990, the top hung about 15 feet out from straight.

   Engineers warned that it could fall within a few decades.

   Workers drilled slanted holes under the north side.

   Builders made upper floors taller on the low side.

3. Which detail best explains why the team chose to keep part of the lean?

   The tower curves a little, like a banana, along its length.

   The soil under it had packed down over the years.

   Some early ideas made the lean worse, not better.

   A straight tower would not draw millions of visitors.

4. Which detail best explains why the tower began to sink on one side?

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

   The ground beneath it is soft clay and sand.

   Wars and money troubles stopped the work for years.

   The tower was finally finished around the year 1372.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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