Compare Two Texts

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read both texts. Each question names one text. Circle the detail that only that text gives.

READ THIS FIRST

Roman Roads Then and Now

Text 1: Roads of the Roman Empire

The ancient Romans built one of the best road systems in the world. Their roads linked the city of Rome to towns across a huge empire. Soldiers used the roads to march quickly to places where they were needed. Messengers and traders used them as well. Many roads ran in nearly straight lines across hills and plains, because a straight road was the shortest way to travel.

Roman builders began by digging a trench along the planned path. They filled it with layers: large stones at the bottom, then smaller stones and gravel, and finally flat paving stones on top. The middle of the road was a little higher than the edges. Rain ran off into ditches on both sides, so the road stayed dry and strong.

Along the roads, stone markers called milestones told travelers how far they were from the next town. One of the most famous roads, the Appian Way, was begun in 312 BC. Some of its stones are still in place today.

Text 2: Walking the Appian Way

Visitors to Italy can still walk on the Appian Way. In ancient times it stretched from Rome to the port of Brindisi, on Italy's southeast coast. A section south of Rome has become a park, and on Sundays it is closed to cars. Walkers step on the same large stones that Roman soldiers once crossed.

Look closely at the paving stones, and you will notice deep grooves. They were worn by thousands of cart wheels over many centuries. Along the sides of the road stand the ruins of tombs. The Romans did not bury people inside their cities, so many families built tombs next to the roads.

Guide Marco Bellini tells visitors to wear sturdy shoes. "The stones are uneven," he says, "and they are very old." Many walkers bring water too, because the path is long.

1. Which detail is given only in Text 1?

   A part of the road is closed to cars on Sundays.

   Wheels wore deep grooves into the paving stones over many centuries.

   Families built tombs beside the road.

   The center of the road was higher so rain could drain away.

2. Which detail is given only in Text 2?

Builders dug a trench and filled it with layers of stone.

Messengers and traders used the roads, too.

Many walkers bring water because the path is long.

The Romans built one of the best road systems in the world.

3. Which detail is given only in Text 1?

Stone markers told travelers how far it was to the next town.

A section south of Rome has become a park for walkers.

The guide says the stones are very old.

A guide tells visitors to wear sturdy shoes on the uneven stones.

4. Which detail is given only in Text 2?

Soldiers used the roads to march to places where they were needed.

The Appian Way was begun in 312 BC.

In ancient times the road stretched to the port of Brindisi.

Many roads ran in nearly straight lines across hills and plains.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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