Compare Two Texts

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

The Great Wall Then and Now

Text 1: The Great Wall of China

The Great Wall of China is not one wall. It is a network of walls, towers and ditches built by different rulers over more than two thousand years. Early walls were made of packed earth, wood and stone. Builders had no machines. Workers carried bricks and stone up steep hills by hand and in carts, and in some places they used cliffs and ridges as part of the wall. Around 220 BC, China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, joined several older walls together to guard his lands from raiders from the north.

Most of the wall that tourists visit today was built much later, during the Ming dynasty, which ruled from 1368 to 1644. Ming builders used bricks and stone, which lasted better than earth. Along the wall they built watchtowers, where soldiers could watch for danger. In many places, towers stood within sight of one another. Parts of the wall also had gates, where travelers and merchants could pass after soldiers checked them. The best-known sections wind over mountains near Beijing.

Together, the wall's many sections are more than 13,000 miles long, according to a government survey from 2012. Many stretches have crumbled, and only some are in good condition. A popular story says the wall can be seen from space. Astronauts say it is very hard to see, because the wall is narrow and matches the color of the land.

Text 2: Guarding the Wall

Imagine being a soldier on the Great Wall about 450 years ago. Your home is a small stone watchtower, and your job is to watch the hills to the north. If you spot raiders, you must send a warning at once. A sentry stands watch day and night, so soldiers take turns resting.

By day you light a fire that makes thick smoke. At night you light a fire that glows. Soldiers in the next tower see your signal and light their own. Each tower stores dry wood and straw, so a signal fire can be lit quickly. In this way, a warning passes from tower to tower along the wall.

Soldiers had other jobs, too. They patrolled the wall and repaired crumbling bricks. In peaceful times, many grew crops on farmland near the wall, so they would have their own food. Life was hard. Winters in the northern mountains are bitterly cold, and supplies could be slow to arrive.

1. Which detail is given only in Text 1?

By day, soldiers light a fire that makes thick smoke, and at night a fire that glows.

Around 220 BC, the first emperor joined several older walls together.

Soldiers watch for danger from towers along the wall.

Each tower stores dry wood and straw so a signal fire can be lit quickly.

2. Which detail is given only in Text 2?

Gates let travelers and merchants pass after soldiers checked them.

Early walls were made of packed earth, wood and stone.

In peaceful times, soldiers grew crops on farmland near the wall.

The sections of the wall are more than 13,000 miles long.

3. Which detail is given only in Text 1?

Winters near the wall are bitterly cold.

Astronauts say the wall is very hard to see from space.

A sentry stands watch day and night.

Soldiers patrolled the wall and repaired crumbling bricks.

4. Which detail is given only in Text 2?

The wall is a network of walls, towers and ditches built by different rulers.

Supplies could be slow to arrive in the northern mountains.

Ming builders used bricks and stone.

The best-known sections wind over mountains near Beijing.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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