Compare Two Texts

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read both texts. Each question starts with a detail from one text. Use the other text to circle the answer.

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. Text 1 says soldiers, messengers and traders used Roman roads. How does a detail in Text 2 support this?

   It shows that the paving stones were badly made and wore out quickly.

   It shows that only soldiers walked on this road for many years.

   It shows that the road was repaired by builders every single year.

   It shows that the road carried many travelers for a very long time.

2. Text 1 says some stones of the Appian Way are still in place today. According to Text 2, what do walkers see on those stones?

writing that tells the year each stone was laid

deep grooves worn by cart wheels

painted lines that mark the middle of the road

milestones that tell how far it is to the next town

3. Text 1 says stone milestones stood along Roman roads. According to Text 2, what else stands along the sides of the Appian Way today?

a row of paving workshops

the ruins of watchtowers

the ruins of tombs

shops that sell water to walkers

4. Text 2 says walkers step on the same stones that Roman soldiers once crossed. According to Text 1, how did soldiers use roads like this one?

to collect fees from other travelers

to carry paving stones to the builders

to march quickly to places where they were needed

to deliver milestones to far-off towns

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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