Compare Two Texts

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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

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. Text 1 says the wall's sections are more than 13,000 miles long. How does this help explain what Text 2 describes?

   The wall was so long that signals were needed to help lost travelers find their way.

   The wall was mostly earth, so signals were needed to warn the soldiers of crumbling walls.

   A wall that long could not be watched from one place, so signals linked the towers.

   The wall had too few soldiers to guard it, so fires took the place of the guards.

2. Text 1 says Ming bricks and stone lasted better than earth. How does Text 2 complicate that claim?

   It shows that bricks were too heavy to use in towers.

   It shows that even brick walls crumbled and needed soldiers to repair them.

   It shows that only the first emperor's workers repaired the wall.

   It shows that soldiers preferred to repair earth walls rather than brick ones.

3. Text 2 says soldiers light their own fire when they see a signal from the next tower. According to Text 1, what made this possible?

   The wall was built only on flat land.

   Gates let travelers carry the warning along.

   In many places, towers stood within sight of one another.

   Torches hung from every brick of the wall.

4. Text 2 says soldiers watch the hills to the north for raiders. According to Text 1, who first joined older walls together to guard against raiders from the north?

   the soldiers who watched from the towers

   the rulers of the Ming dynasty

   merchants who passed through the gates

   China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang

Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

Compare Two Texts

Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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

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. Text 1 says the wall's sections are more than 13,000 miles long. How does this help explain what Text 2 describes?

The wall was so long that signals were needed to help lost travelers find their way.

The wall was mostly earth, so signals were needed to warn the soldiers of crumbling walls.

A wall that long could not be watched from one place, so signals linked the towers.

The wall had too few soldiers to guard it, so fires took the place of the guards.

2. Text 1 says Ming bricks and stone lasted better than earth. How does Text 2 complicate that claim?

It shows that bricks were too heavy to use in towers.

It shows that even brick walls crumbled and needed soldiers to repair them.

It shows that only the first emperor's workers repaired the wall.

It shows that soldiers preferred to repair earth walls rather than brick ones.

3. Text 2 says soldiers light their own fire when they see a signal from the next tower. According to Text 1, what made this possible?

The wall was built only on flat land.

Gates let travelers carry the warning along.

In many places, towers stood within sight of one another.

Torches hung from every brick of the wall.

4. Text 2 says soldiers watch the hills to the north for raiders. According to Text 1, who first joined older walls together to guard against raiders from the north?

the soldiers who watched from the towers

the rulers of the Ming dynasty

merchants who passed through the gates

China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang