Fact and Opinion

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the sentence that is an opinion.

READ THIS FIRST

Please Do Touch

Most museums post the same sign beside their displays: Please Do Not Touch. I understand why. Old objects can be fragile, and oils from our hands can damage them over time. Still, I believe museums should give visitors more chances to touch. Touching helps people learn, it includes more visitors, and it can be done without harming the real treasures.

First, touch helps people learn and remember. When you hold a stone tool, you feel its weight and its sharp edge. You start to wonder how long it took someone to shape it. Teachers who run hands-on lessons often notice that students ask more questions. A science center in my city added a touch table with fossils and shells. The staff timed visitors and found that people stayed at the table about three times longer than at nearby glass cases.

Second, touch includes visitors who cannot learn well by looking alone. People who are blind or have low vision explore the world through their hands. Some museums now offer touch tours. On these tours, guides hand visitors real objects or careful models to feel. A visitor can run her fingers over a carved statue and feel the shape of its eyes and nose. Without touch, these visitors would miss most of what a museum offers.

Third, museums can allow touching and still protect their collections. They can make copies, called replicas, with 3-D printers. A good replica copies the shape, the bumps and even the weight of the original. A replica of a dinosaur claw can be held by thousands of children. Meanwhile, the real claw stays safe behind glass. Gloves are another choice for sturdy objects like metal tools.

Some people argue that visitors will break things. Accidents can happen, it is true. But replicas are cheap to replace, and staff can choose sturdy objects for touch tables. At the science center in my city, the touch table has been open for two years. Only a few shells have cracked, and each one cost less than five dollars to replace. A cracked copy is a small problem compared with a visitor who leaves bored.

Of course, not everything should be touched. A thin old painting or a crumbling scroll needs protection. My point is not that every sign should come down. My point is that every museum should have at least one place where hands are welcome.

Next time you visit a museum, look for a touch table. If there is none, ask the staff to add one. Museums belong to all of us, and we should be able to explore them with every sense.

1. They can make copies, called replicas, with 3-D printers.

   People who are blind or have low vision explore the world through their hands.

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   Some museums now offer touch tours.

2. At the science center in my city, the touch table has been open for two years.

   On these tours, guides hand visitors real objects or careful models to feel.

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   Still, I believe museums should give visitors more chances to touch.

3. Museums belong to all of us, and we should be able to explore them with every sense.

   A science center in my city added a touch table with fossils and shells.

   On these tours, guides hand visitors real objects or careful models to feel.

   They can make copies, called replicas, with 3-D printers.

4. The staff timed visitors and found that people stayed at the table about three times longer than at nearby glass cases.

   Of course, not everything should be touched.

   Old objects can be fragile, and oils from our hands can damage them over time.

   At the science center in my city, the touch table has been open for two years.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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