Main Idea and Supporting Details

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the answer to each question.

READ THIS FIRST

How Bridges Stay Up

A beam bridge is the simplest kind. A flat beam rests across two supports, like a plank over a stream. Beam bridges work well for short spans, such as a path over a small creek.

An arch bridge curves upward. The curve pushes the weight of the bridge out to the ground at both ends. Builders in ancient Rome made stone arches that still stand today.

A suspension bridge hangs from strong cables strung between tall towers. It can cross wide rivers and bays. The Golden Gate Bridge in California is a famous example.

1. What is the main idea of the whole text?
   Creeks are small. Rivers are wide. There are 3 kinds. Rome made arches.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
   Creeks are small. Arches curve up. Cables hang down. Beams are simple.

3. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 1?
   Rome built arches. Towers stand tall. Cables hang down. Beams cross creeks.

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
   Rome had stone. Beams are simple. Cables hang down. Arches curve up.

5. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 2?
   Rome built arches. Beams cross creeks. Cables span bays. Towers stand tall.

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?
   Beams are simple. Cables hold it up. Arches curve up. Towers are tall.

7. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 3?
   Planks span streams. Rome built arches. It crosses rivers. Beams cross creeks.

8. Which detail does not belong in this text?
   Beams cross creeks. It crosses rivers. Rain forests are wet. Rome built arches.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Read the text. Circle the answer to each question.

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1. What is the main idea of the whole text?
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2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
   Creeks are small. Arches curve up. Cables hang down. **Beams are simple.**

3. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 1?
   Rome built arches. Towers stand tall. Cables hang down. **Beams cross creeks.**

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
   Rome had stone. Beams are simple. Cables hang down. **Arches curve up.**

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7. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 3?
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8. Which detail does not belong in this text?
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