Main Idea and Supporting Details

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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?
   Rome made arches. Rivers are wide. There are 3 kinds. Creeks are small.

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

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

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

5. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 2?
   Beams cross creeks. Rome built arches. 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. It crosses rivers. Beams cross creeks. Rome built arches.

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

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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