Main Idea and Supporting Details

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Read the text. Circle the answer to each question.

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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?

   There are 3 kinds. Rome made arches. Rivers are wide.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

   Arches curve up. Cables hang down. **Beams are simple.**

3. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 1?

   Beams cross creeks. Cables hang down. Rome built arches.

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

   Arches curve up. Beams are simple. Cables hang down.

5. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 2?

   Beams cross creeks. **Rome built arches.** Cables span bays.

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

   Arches curve up. Beams are simple. **Cables hold it up.**

7. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 3?

   It crosses rivers. Rome built arches. Beams cross creeks.

8. Which detail does not belong in this text?

   Beams cross creeks. **Rain forests are wet.** Rome built arches.