Summarize a Text

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail that is important enough to include in a summary.

READ THIS FIRST

A Vault for the World's Seeds

On a snowy island far north of mainland Norway, a narrow building juts out of a mountainside. It looks like a doorway to nowhere. Behind it, a tunnel leads deep into the frozen rock. At the end lies one of the most important storage rooms on Earth: the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

The vault holds seeds of the crops people depend on, such as rice, wheat, beans, and corn. Many crops come in hundreds or even thousands of varieties. One kind of wheat might survive dry summers. Another might resist a plant disease. If a variety disappears, farmers lose the special strengths it carried. The vault exists so that no variety is lost for good.

Most countries already keep seeds in local seed banks. However, seed banks can be damaged by floods, fires, or broken equipment. The Svalbard vault serves as a backup copy. Countries send extra samples of their seeds for safekeeping. The seeds still belong to the country that sent them, and only that country can take them out.

The location was chosen with care. The island is cold all year, and the ground stays frozen. Inside, machines keep the seeds at about zero degrees Fahrenheit. If the power ever failed, the frozen mountain would still keep the seeds cold for a long time. The vault also sits high above the sea, so rising oceans cannot reach it.

Since it opened in 2008, the vault has collected more than one million seed samples from almost every country. Each sample holds about five hundred seeds, sealed in a silver packet and stored in boxes on tall shelves.

For years, no one needed to withdraw anything. Then, in 2015, a team of scientists lost access to their own seed bank in Syria. They asked for their backup seeds from Svalbard. The scientists planted them in fields in Lebanon and Morocco. When the plants produced new seeds, the team sent fresh copies back to the vault. The backup had worked exactly as planned.

Even a frozen mountain faces challenges. In 2016, an unusually warm winter melted some of the ground near the entrance. Water trickled into the tunnel, though it never reached the seeds. Norway then rebuilt the tunnel with waterproof walls.

The people who run the vault compare it to a spare tire. Most of the time, it simply waits. But when something goes wrong, it lets farmers start again.

1. Which idea from the second paragraph must a summary include?

   One kind of wheat might survive dry summers.

   Corn is one of the crops kept in the vault.

   Saving many varieties keeps their special strengths.

   Some crops have thousands of varieties.

2.

   The vault is reached by a narrow tunnel in a mountainside.

   Each sample holds about five hundred seeds.

   Seeds are sealed in silver packets and stored on tall shelves.

   The vault is a backup copy for damaged seed banks.

3.

   The seeds are sealed in silver packets and stored in boxes.

   Each silver packet sample holds about five hundred seeds.

   A narrow building juts out of the mountainside on the island.

   Scientists who lost their seed bank in Syria got backup seeds.

4.

   The vault sits high above the sea on a snowy island.

   The tunnel leads deep into the frozen rock of a mountain.

   Some kinds of wheat might survive dry summers.

   The seeds still belong to the countries that send them.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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