Summarize a Text

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail that could be left out of a short 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. The frozen mountain keeps the seeds cold.
   The seeds are sealed in silver packets.
   Saved varieties carry special strengths.
   Countries send backup copies of their seeds.

2. Saved varieties keep special strengths.
   The vault is a backup for local seed banks.
   The seeds still belong to the sending countries.
   The building looks like a doorway to nowhere.

3. Countries send backup copies of their seeds.
   The cold mountain keeps the seeds frozen.
   In 2015 scientists got their backup seeds back.
   Each sample holds about five hundred seeds.

4. Corn is one of the crops kept in the vault.
   Seeds are saved so no variety is lost for good.
   The vault sits high above the sea.
   Scientists used the backup seeds after 2015.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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