How a Text Is Organized

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the answer to each Why question.

READ THIS FIRST

Why the Monsoon Brings Rain

Every summer, much of India waits for the monsoon. A monsoon is a seasonal wind that changes direction. In India, the summer monsoon brings heavy rain that can last for months. This rain has a chain of causes, and it leads to many effects.

The chain begins with the sun. In spring, the sun shines strongly on the land of South Asia. Land heats up faster than water does. As a result, the land becomes much warmer than the Indian Ocean to the south.

Warm air over the land rises. As it rises, it leaves behind an area of lower air pressure. Cooler, wetter air from the ocean rushes in to take its place. This moving air is the monsoon wind.

The ocean air carries a great deal of water vapor. When the wind reaches the land, the air is pushed upward, especially near hills and mountains. Higher up, the air cools. Because cool air cannot hold as much water vapor, the vapor turns into clouds and rain.

The rain has big effects on people's lives. Farmers depend on it to grow rice, cotton and other crops. Wells, lakes and rivers fill up again after the dry, hot months. The cooler weather is also a relief after the hottest part of the year.

However, the monsoon can cause trouble, too. If too much rain falls at once, rivers may overflow and flood roads and fields. If the rain arrives late or is weak, crops may dry out. For this reason, weather scientists watch the ocean and the winds closely. They try to predict when the rain will arrive so farmers can plan.

By autumn, the land cools down. The winds switch direction and blow from the land toward the sea. The rainy season ends, and the cycle waits for next summer.

1. Why does the land become warmer than the Indian Ocean in spring?

   Clouds trap warm air near the hills.

   Rivers overflow during heavy rain.

   Land heats up faster than water does.

   The monsoon wind blows from the ocean.

2. Why does the ocean air turn into clouds and rain over the land?

The air rises and cools, and cool air holds less water vapor.

The mountains block the sun and darken the air.

The sun heats the air until all the vapor disappears.

The air sinks toward the ground and grows heavier.

3. Why do weather scientists try to predict the monsoon?

so farmers can plan

so the winds will blow toward the sea

so the monsoon will come earlier

so the rivers will stay low all year

4. Why do farmers depend on the monsoon rain?

They need it to grow rice, cotton and other crops.

It cools the whole Indian Ocean down in the spring.

It makes the land heat up faster than the ocean.

It keeps the winds from changing direction in autumn.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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