How a Text Is Organized

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

The Upside-Down Tree

The baobab is one of the most unusual trees in Africa. People sometimes call it the upside-down tree. When its leaves fall off in the dry season, its bare branches look like roots reaching into the sky.

The trunk is the baobab's most famous part. It is thick and round, like a giant barrel. Some trunks are so wide that it takes more than ten adults holding hands to reach around them. The bark is smooth and gray. Inside, the wood is soft and spongy. It can hold thousands of gallons of water, which helps the tree survive months without rain.

The branches grow only near the top of the tree. They spread out in a wide, flat crown. During the rainy season, they are covered in green leaves.

The flowers are large and white. Each one has a puff of thin threads in the middle. The flowers open at night and last only about one day. Their sweet smell draws fruit bats, which carry pollen from flower to flower.

The fruit is shaped like a long, fuzzy egg. It hangs down from a long stem. Inside the hard shell is a dry, chalky pulp around the seeds. People in many parts of Africa mix the pulp into drinks and porridge.

A baobab can live for more than a thousand years. With its huge trunk, odd branches and night flowers, it is easy to see why people remember it.

1. Why is the baobab called the upside-down tree?
   - Its flowers point down toward the soil.
   - Its bare branches look like roots in the sky.
   - It grows with its roots above the ground.

2. Why might an author choose description for this topic?
   - to show events in the order they happened
   - to persuade readers to plant a baobab
   - to help readers picture each part of the tree

3. Why can the baobab's trunk hold so much water?
   - The bark is smooth and gray.
   - The wood inside is soft and spongy.
   - The trunk is full of dry, chalky pulp.

4. Why do fruit bats visit the flowers?
   - The flowers hold gallons of water inside.
   - The flowers stay open for a whole week.
   - The sweet smell of the flowers draws them.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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