Use Evidence in Informational Text

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Bamboo: The Grass That Builds

Look up at a new skyscraper in Hong Kong, and you may see something surprising. Workers climb a huge frame wrapped around the building. The frame is not made of metal. It is made of bamboo poles tied together with plastic strips.

Bamboo is not a tree. It is a giant grass, and it grows faster than almost any other plant. Some kinds can grow nearly a meter in a single day. A bamboo stem can reach its full height in just a few months. After it is cut, new shoots rise from the same roots, so the plant does not need to be replanted.

Bamboo is also remarkably strong for its weight. Its hollow stem is divided into sections by solid rings called nodes. These rings keep the pole from bending too easily. Builders say a bamboo pole can hold heavy loads while staying light enough for one worker to carry. In Hong Kong, skilled workers can put up bamboo scaffolding much faster than metal frames. They tie the poles by hand without bolts or heavy machines.

People in Asia, Africa, and South America have built with bamboo for thousands of years. They use it for houses, bridges, fences, and furniture. In Colombia, the architect Simón Vélez has designed large buildings with bamboo roofs that stretch wide without many supports.

Bamboo does have weaknesses. If it stays wet, it can rot, and insects may chew through untreated poles. Builders protect it by drying the poles and treating them before use. With care, a bamboo building can last for many decades.

1. Which detail supports the statement that bamboo grows very fast?

   Its hollow stem is divided into sections by solid rings.

   Workers climb a huge frame wrapped around the building.

   Some kinds can grow nearly a meter in a single day.

2. Which sentence best supports the idea that bamboo is easy to grow again after it is cut?

   It is made of bamboo poles tied together with plastic strips.

   After it is cut, new shoots rise from the same roots.

   They use it for houses, bridges, fences, and furniture.

3. According to the text, what keeps a bamboo pole from bending too easily?

plastic strips tied around it

solid rings called nodes

the hollow space inside the stem

4. What can you infer about why Hong Kong builders use bamboo scaffolding?

It is strong, light, and quick to put up.

It looks better on tall buildings than metal.

It is the only material allowed in the city.

5. Which detail supports the inference that putting up bamboo scaffolding takes skill?

They tie the poles by hand without bolts or heavy machines.

Builders protect it by drying the poles and treating them before use.

Some kinds can grow nearly a meter in a single day.

6. Which sentence shows that building with bamboo is not new?

Look up at a new skyscraper in Hong Kong, and you may see something surprising.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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