Message Beyond Earth

Use details to separate stated facts from supported inferences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.1 "Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that state facts directly. Then number two pairs of details that work together to support an inference you can make about the Golden Record or the Voyager spacecraft.

Voyager's Golden Record

1. In 1977, NASA launched Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 to study the outer planets. Each spacecraft carried a Golden Record, a gold-plated copper disc designed to share information about Earth with any beings that might find it in space. The record includes greetings in 55 languages, natural sounds such as thunder and birds, music from many cultures, and printed images encoded as signals. A cover explains, through diagrams, how to play the record and locate Earth.

2. The two records were made to last for a very long time. Engineers placed each disc in a protective aluminum case and added a small cartridge and needle for playing it. The case also carries a diagram of a hydrogen atom, which scientists hoped would give finders a shared scientific reference. The Voyagers were not aimed at a particular star. Instead, after completing their planet studies, they continued traveling outward through space, where they face extreme cold and radiation.

3. Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 are now the only spacecraft to explore interstellar space, the region beyond the Sun's protective bubble. They still send weak signals to Earth, although their power supplies slowly lose energy. NASA has turned off some instruments to save power for other systems. The spacecraft will not return to Earth. Even after they can no longer communicate, they will continue moving through the galaxy, carrying their records far beyond the people who built them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the Golden Record made of? Cite the words from the passage that support your answer.

2. What can you infer about why the record case includes a diagram of a hydrogen atom? Cite two details that support your inference.

3. What can you infer about NASA's reason for turning off some Voyager instruments? Cite two details that support your inference.

4. Is the Golden Record likely to be found soon? Make an inference and cite two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences for a museum label about the Golden Record. Explain what it carries, then infer what its creators wanted future finders to learn, using two details from the passage in quotation marks.

ANSWER KEY

Message Beyond Earth

GRADE 6 · RI.6.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that state facts directly. Then number two pairs of details that work together to support an inference you can make about the Golden Record or the Voyager spacecraft. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the Golden Record made of? Cite the words from the passage that support your answer.	**It is a "gold-plated copper disc."**
2	What can you infer about why the record case includes a diagram of a hydrogen atom? Cite two details that support your inference.	**The diagram may help unknown finders understand the record because scientists hoped it would provide "a shared scientific reference," and the record was made for "any beings that might find it in space."**
3	What can you infer about NASA's reason for turning off some Voyager instruments? Cite two details that support your inference.	**NASA is trying to keep the spacecraft working and communicating as long as possible. The power supplies "slowly lose energy," and NASA turned off instruments "to save power for other systems."**
4	Is the Golden Record likely to be found soon? Make an inference and cite two details from the passage.	**It is probably not likely to be found soon. The spacecraft were "not aimed at a particular star" and will continue "moving through the galaxy."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Golden Record carries "greetings in 55 languages" and "natural sounds such as thunder and birds." Its cover shows "how to play the record and locate Earth." These choices suggest that its creators wanted unknown finders to understand both Earth's life and its place in space.

For the museum label, check for exactly three sentences, two quoted details, and an inference connected to those details.