Problem in Space

Read a historical account for sequence, details, and central ideas.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.10 "By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that shows a key change in the mission. Then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the order of the events.

Apollo 13's Safe Return

1 On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 lifted off from Florida with astronauts Jim Lovell, Fred Haise, and Jack Swigert. The mission was meant to land two astronauts on the moon. About two days later, a damaged oxygen tank exploded in the service module, the section that supplied power, water, and air. Lovell reported, "Houston, we've had a problem." The explosion forced the crew to abandon the lunar landing and concentrate on staying alive during the trip home safely.

2 Mission controllers in Houston and engineers on the ground studied the spacecraft's limited supplies. The lunar module, built to carry two people for a short stay on the moon, became a temporary lifeboat for three astronauts. Its batteries provided power, but they could not be used carelessly. Carbon dioxide also began to build up in the cabin. Engineers designed an adapter from plastic bags, cardboard, tape, and other materials already on board so the crew could use a square filter in a round opening.

3 On April 17, after nearly four tense days, Apollo 13 splashed down in the Pacific Ocean. The crew had followed carefully timed steps to save electricity and steer the spacecraft. Before reentering Earth's atmosphere, they moved back into the command module, the small capsule protected by a heat shield. All three astronauts survived. Apollo 13 did not complete its original goal, but the mission showed how clear communication, careful planning, and shared problem solving can turn a dangerous failure into a safe return.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What was Apollo 13's original goal, and how did the explosion change the crew's goal?

2. Why does the passage describe the lunar module as a "temporary lifeboat"? Use two details from paragraph 2.

3. How did people on the ground help the astronauts solve a problem during the mission?

4. What central idea does the passage develop about the Apollo 13 mission?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence summary of Apollo 13's mission. Explain the original goal, the obstacle, the response, and the outcome, using at least two precise details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Problem in Space

GRADE 7 · RI.7.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that shows a key change in the mission. Then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the order of the events. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was Apollo 13's original goal, and how did the explosion change the crew's goal?	**The original goal was to land astronauts on the moon. After the explosion, the crew focused on surviving and returning safely to Earth.**
2	Why does the passage describe the lunar module as a "temporary lifeboat"? Use two details from paragraph 2.	**The lunar module sheltered all three astronauts after the explosion and provided power, although its batteries had to be conserved. Engineers also helped the crew solve the carbon dioxide filter problem.**
3	How did people on the ground help the astronauts solve a problem during the mission?	**Mission controllers and engineers studied the limited supplies and designed an adapter from materials already on board so the crew could use the carbon dioxide filter.**
4	What central idea does the passage develop about the Apollo 13 mission?	**Although Apollo 13 failed to reach the moon, communication, planning, and teamwork helped the crew survive and return safely.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Apollo 13 began as a mission to land astronauts on the moon. An oxygen tank explosion ended that plan and threatened the crew's air, water, and power. On the ground, engineers helped the astronauts use the lunar module as a lifeboat and created an adapter for the carbon dioxide filter. After following timed steps and returning to the command module, all three astronauts splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean.

Accept equivalent wording when students accurately explain the mission's change of purpose, the ground team's support, and the safe return. For the summary, accept four sentences that include all four required elements and at least two accurate passage details.