City Divided

Use explicit details and logical inferences to analyze a historical text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.1 "Cite strong and thorough 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 details that explicitly state how the Berlin Wall affected people. Circle details that could support an inference about government control, then number the two pieces of evidence you think are strongest.

Berlin's Changing Border

1 On August 13, 1961, East German authorities began sealing the border through Berlin. At first, soldiers stretched barbed wire across streets and rail lines. Soon, the temporary barrier became a heavily guarded system of concrete walls, watchtowers, patrol roads, and checkpoints. The East German government said the border protected its citizens from Western influence. Yet the barrier also stopped many East Germans from moving to West Berlin, where they could then travel to West Germany. Families who had crossed the city for work, school, or visits found their daily routes abruptly cut off.

2 During the 1970s and 1980s, some people attempted risky escapes, using tunnels, altered vehicles, or forged documents. Others remained but protested restrictions in quieter ways, such as applying repeatedly for permission to leave. The wall did not fully isolate East Berlin: selected visitors crossed at checkpoints, and television signals from the West reached many homes. Still, guards checked travelers closely, and officials kept extensive files on citizens. These conditions shaped ordinary choices. A person deciding where to work, whom to visit, or whether to criticize the government had to consider rules that could change quickly and consequences that were often unclear.

3 In 1989, political changes across Eastern Europe weakened East Germany's leaders. On November 9, an official announced new travel rules at a televised news conference. Asked when the rules would begin, he replied, "Immediately, without delay," although the government had not clearly prepared border guards for the announcement. Thousands of East Berliners went to crossing points that evening. Faced with growing crowds and no clear instructions, guards at several checkpoints opened the barriers. In the following months, Berliners chipped pieces from the wall, and Germany was formally reunified on October 3, 1990.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What reason did the East German government publicly give for the border? Cite the exact phrase that states this reason.

2. What can you infer about how the wall changed family life in Berlin? Use two details from paragraph 1 to support your inference.

3. What do the details in paragraph 2 suggest about the amount of control East German officials had over citizens' choices? Cite two details and explain your inference.

4. Why did guards open barriers at several checkpoints on November 9, 1989? Cite two details from paragraph 3 that support your analysis.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences arguing whether the Berlin Wall functioned mainly as protection or as control. State a claim, use one explicit detail from paragraph 1 and a second detail from paragraph 2 or 3, and explain how each detail supports your claim.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that explicitly state how the Berlin Wall affected people. Circle details that could support an inference about government control, then number the two pieces of evidence you think are strongest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What reason did the East German government publicly give for the border? Cite the exact phrase that states this reason.	**The government said the border "protected its citizens from Western influence."**
2	What can you infer about how the wall changed family life in Berlin? Use two details from paragraph 1 to support your inference.	**The wall likely separated families and disrupted their routines. It "stopped many East Germans from moving to West Berlin," and families' routes for "work, school, or visits" were "abruptly cut off."**
3	What do the details in paragraph 2 suggest about the amount of control East German officials had over citizens' choices? Cite two details and explain your inference.	**Officials had strong control over citizens' choices. Guards checked travelers closely, officials kept extensive files, and people had to consider unclear consequences before working, visiting others, or criticizing the government.**
4	Why did guards open barriers at several checkpoints on November 9, 1989? Cite two details from paragraph 3 that support your analysis.	**The announcement drew thousands of people to the crossings, while guards had not been clearly prepared and had no clear instructions. Faced with those growing crowds, guards opened barriers at several checkpoints.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The wall functioned mainly as a tool of control. In paragraph 1, the barrier stopped many East Germans from moving to West Berlin, which shows it limited their freedom to leave. In paragraph 2, guards checked travelers closely and officials kept files on citizens, showing that the government monitored people who remained.

Accept reasonable inferences when students support them with accurate, relevant details from the passage. For the open response, require a clear claim, evidence from the required paragraphs, and an explanation connecting each detail to the claim.