Questions That Travel

Explore questions that matter across times and places

5.P.1.2.A "Ask and examine essential questions that are important to others, as well as enduring across social studies topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two groups who care about a decision in each paragraph. Underline one detail in each paragraph that could help you ask a question that matters in more than one situation.

Who Gets a Say?

1. In 1911, a fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City. The factory made clothing. Many workers were young immigrant women. The fire killed 146 people. Some exits could not be used, and the fire spread quickly. Afterward, workers and families demanded safer buildings. Factory owners, workers, and city leaders all had a stake in what rules should change.

2. Today, imagine a city council considering rules for people who repair roofs in hot weather. Workers want water and breaks to help them stay safe. Some contractors worry about the time and cost of new rules. Families worry when someone they love works outdoors in the heat. City leaders must hear these views before deciding which rules to adopt.

3. Imagine a town planning a new public playground. Families with small children want safe climbing areas. Children who use wheelchairs and their families want paths and equipment they can use. Town leaders must decide how to spend a limited budget. Although a playground is not a workplace, people still debate safety, access, and who should help make choices. These debates can arise in many times and places.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write one question about safety that fits both the factory fire and the roof-work decision. Give one detail from each situation that makes your question fit.

2. Consider the question, "Who should help shape safety rules?" Name one group from the factory story and one from the roof-work decision that would care about this question. Explain why.

3. Which question helps you examine more than one situation: "How many people died in the 1911 fire?" or "How can communities protect people?" Explain using two situations from the passage.

4. Why might both roof-work contractors and families of children who use wheelchairs care about the question, "How should leaders use limited resources to meet different needs?"

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a community decision not described in the passage, such as changing bus routes or opening a clinic. Write one essential question that fits both your decision and one situation in the passage. Then write three sentences explaining why two different groups would care and how the question fits both situations.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.P.1.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two groups who care about a decision in each paragraph. Underline one detail in each paragraph that could help you ask a question that matters in more than one situation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write one question about safety that fits both the factory fire and the roof-work decision. Give one detail from each situation that makes your question fit.	**How can communities protect workers? Some factory exits could not be used, and roof workers want water and breaks in hot weather.**
2	Consider the question, "Who should help shape safety rules?" Name one group from the factory story and one from the roof-work decision that would care about this question. Explain why.	**Factory workers would care because they demanded safer buildings. Roof-work contractors would care because new rules could affect their time and costs.**
3	Which question helps you examine more than one situation: "How many people died in the 1911 fire?" or "How can communities protect people?" Explain using two situations from the passage.	**"How can communities protect people?" fits the factory, where workers needed usable exits, and the playground, where families want safe climbing areas.**
4	Why might both roof-work contractors and families of children who use wheelchairs care about the question, "How should leaders use limited resources to meet different needs?"	**Contractors worry about the time and cost of new rules. Families want playground paths and equipment their children can use, while town leaders have a limited budget.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Who should have access to public services? A change to bus routes would matter to riders who need to reach work and to city leaders who set the budget. The question also fits the playground because children who use wheelchairs need paths they can use. In both cases, decisions about public resources affect who can take part.

Accept other questions that apply to more than one situation and are supported by passage details. For Your Turn, look for a new community decision, a question that also fits one passage situation, and reasons that two groups would care.