When Fires Followed

Trace causes and effects through a historic disaster

5.P.2.2.C "Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments of the past or present; create timelines to identify multiple causes and effects from given information."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three causes of the fires, circle three effects of the earthquake or fires, and write 1 through 5 beside five events in the order they happened.

The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

1. Before April 18, 1906, San Francisco was a busy city with many wooden buildings. Early that morning, rocks along a fault suddenly slipped. At 5:12 a.m., a powerful earthquake shook the city. Streets cracked, buildings fell, and water pipes broke underground. Some gas pipes also split. The shaking lasted less than a minute, but the damage helped turn this quake into a much longer disaster.

2. On April 18, fires started in several parts of the city. Broken gas pipes and overturned stoves helped start them. Flames moved quickly from one wooden building to another. Firefighters tried to stop the flames, but broken water pipes left many fire hydrants dry. Fires burned for three days, destroying many homes and shops that had survived the shaking.

3. By April 21, the largest fires were out. Thousands of people had lost their homes, so many families stayed in tents in parks and open spaces. Groups brought food and blankets to the camps. In the months that followed, workers cleared wreckage and rebuilt streets and buildings. City leaders also changed building rules to reduce the danger of future fires.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What caused the earthquake, and what were two immediate effects of the shaking?

2. What two things helped start the fires, and what helped the flames spread?

3. How did damage to water pipes affect firefighters and the fires?

4. Name two actions people took after the fires. What problem did each action address?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-entry timeline in order, from before April 18 through the months after the fires. Use "because" in two entries to explain causes and "so" in two other entries to show effects.

ANSWER KEY

When Fires Followed

GRADE 5 · 5.P.2.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three causes of the fires, circle three effects of the earthquake or fires, and write 1 through 5 beside five events in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What caused the earthquake, and what were two immediate effects of the shaking?	**Rocks slipped along a fault. The shaking cracked streets and broke water pipes. Fallen buildings or split gas pipes are also valid effects.**
2	What two things helped start the fires, and what helped the flames spread?	**Broken gas pipes and overturned stoves helped start fires. Flames spread from one wooden building to another.**
3	How did damage to water pipes affect firefighters and the fires?	**Broken pipes left many hydrants dry, making it harder for firefighters to stop the flames. The fires burned for three days.**
4	Name two actions people took after the fires. What problem did each action address?	**Families stayed in tents because they had lost their homes. Workers rebuilt streets and buildings because the disaster had damaged them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before April 18: San Francisco had many wooden buildings, so flames could later spread from building to building.
April 18, 5:12 a.m.: The ground shook because rocks slipped along a fault.
Later April 18: Fires started because gas pipes broke and stoves overturned.
April 18 to 20: Broken water pipes left hydrants dry, so fires were harder to stop.
Months later: Workers rebuilt streets and buildings, and leaders changed building rules.

Accept other effects and responses supported by the passage. Timeline entries should be in time order and include two distinct causes and two effects.