After the Quake

Test claims against the evidence in a historical account.

6.P.3.2.B "Evaluate textual evidence to determine whether a claim is substantiated."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that help you test claims about the disaster. Circle one claim that goes beyond what the evidence proves.

What Destroyed San Francisco?

1 Before sunrise on April 18, 1906, a powerful earthquake struck San Francisco. Buildings shook, walls cracked, and some structures fell. Fires broke out soon afterward. Broken gas lines helped feed some flames, while broken water mains left firefighters with less water. Newspaper reports and survivors' accounts describe both the shaking and the fires. A student examining these records makes two claims: "The earthquake damaged buildings" and "The shaking alone destroyed nearly the entire city." The records can be used to test both claims, but they do not support them equally.

2 Firefighters tried to stop the flames by pulling down buildings to make gaps the fire could not cross. In some places they used explosives, but the fires kept spreading. Fires burned across much of San Francisco for several days. Later estimates say fire, rather than shaking, caused most of the destruction. A newspaper headline from the time called the event an "earthquake disaster." That short label names the event, but it does not tell readers which force destroyed most buildings. To check that, readers need fuller accounts of the damage.

3 The disaster left many people without homes. Families slept in parks and other open spaces, and relief camps provided tents and food. Records of those camps show that some residents stayed in the city after the earthquake. A survivor's account might describe one family's experience, but it cannot show what happened to every family. Someone might claim that all San Franciscans left the city. The camp records challenge that claim because people were living there. They do not, however, tell us where every resident went.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Does the passage support the claim that the earthquake damaged buildings? Give two details that help you decide.

2. Does the passage support the claim that shaking alone destroyed nearly the entire city? Explain using evidence.

3. A reader claims that using explosives stopped the fires at once. What evidence tests this claim?

4. Do the camp records prove that every resident stayed in San Francisco? Explain what they do and do not show.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new claim about how people met basic needs after the disaster. Support it with two different details from the passage, then explain one thing those details do not prove.

ANSWER KEY

After the Quake

GRADE 6 · 6.P.3.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that help you test claims about the disaster. Circle one claim that goes beyond what the evidence proves. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Does the passage support the claim that the earthquake damaged buildings? Give two details that help you decide.	**Yes. Walls cracked, and some structures fell.**
2	Does the passage support the claim that shaking alone destroyed nearly the entire city? Explain using evidence.	**No. Later estimates say fire, rather than shaking, caused most of the destruction.**
3	A reader claims that using explosives stopped the fires at once. What evidence tests this claim?	**The claim is not supported. Firefighters used explosives in some places, but the fires kept spreading and burned for several days.**
4	Do the camp records prove that every resident stayed in San Francisco? Explain what they do and do not show.	**No. The records show that some residents stayed and lived in camps, but they do not show where every resident went.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People found places to stay and ways to get food after losing their homes. Families slept in parks and other open spaces, while relief camps provided tents and food. These details do not prove that every person received a tent or a meal.

Accept answers that use specific passage details and distinguish what the evidence supports from what it cannot establish. For Part 3, the claim must address basic needs rather than repeat a claim from the questions.