Tracing the Evidence

Read across a witness account, a historical account, and a table.

7.P.3.1 "Comprehend, evaluate, and synthesize textual sources to acquire and refine knowledge in the social studies. Paraphrase the main idea and cite evidence from primary and secondary sources..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail from Perkins's memory, circle two findings from the later historical account, and write 1 beside the table number for women and girls who died. These marks will help you track evidence from three sources.

The Triangle Factory Fire

1 On March 25, 1911, fire swept through New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, which occupied the upper floors of a building. Frances Perkins watched from nearby Washington Square. She later recalled workers at upper windows and firefighters' ladders that could not reach them. Her account describes what she saw outside, not conditions inside the factory.

2 Historians have used witness accounts, investigations, and building records to explain the disaster. Cornell University's history of the fire reports that some exit doors were locked and an outdoor fire escape collapsed. Those details help explain why workers had trouble escaping, but they were not things Perkins could see from the square. The table shows who died in the fire.

DEATHS IN THE 1911 TRIANGLE FIRE

Group	People who died
Women and girls	123
Men	23
Total	146

3 After the fire, New York State investigated factory conditions and passed new workplace safety laws. The fire did not create every safety rule by itself, but it added urgency to calls for change. To understand its impact, readers can compare Perkins's memory with the later account and the death totals. Each source answers a different question about the same event.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In your own words, what main idea links Perkins's account and the later history? Support your answer with one detail from each.

2. Which source is better for learning what a witness saw from the square, and which is better for learning about exits? Explain your choices.

3. In two sentences, summarize what the sources say about the fire and its aftermath without adding your opinion or outside information.

4. Use a number from the table and a detail about escape to draw a conclusion about the fire's human cost. Do not claim that the table explains why people died.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label explaining how different sources help tell the story of the fire. Include one detail from Perkins, one from the later account, one number from the table, one change after the fire, and one limit of what these sources tell us.

ANSWER KEY

Tracing the Evidence

GRADE 7 · 7.P.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail from Perkins's memory, circle two findings from the later historical account, and write 1 beside the table number for women and girls who died. These marks will help you track evidence from three sources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In your own words, what main idea links Perkins's account and the later history? Support your answer with one detail from each.	**Workers had difficulty escaping the fire. Perkins recalled that ladders could not reach workers at upper windows, while Cornell University's account reports locked exit doors and a collapsed fire escape.**
2	Which source is better for learning what a witness saw from the square, and which is better for learning about exits? Explain your choices.	**Perkins's account is better for what a witness saw because she watched from the square. Cornell University's later history is better for learning about exits because it draws on investigations and building records.**
3	In two sentences, summarize what the sources say about the fire and its aftermath without adding your opinion or outside information.	**During the Triangle fire, workers had trouble escaping, and 146 people died. Afterward, New York State investigated factory conditions and passed new workplace safety laws.**
4	Use a number from the table and a detail about escape to draw a conclusion about the fire's human cost. Do not claim that the table explains why people died.	**The fire killed 123 women and girls. The later account's report of locked exits shows that escape was difficult, but the table alone does not show how anyone died.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Frances Perkins recalled seeing workers at upper windows while firefighters' ladders could not reach them. Cornell University's later account reports that some exit doors were locked and an outdoor fire escape collapsed. The table shows that 123 women and girls died in the fire. After the disaster, New York State investigated factories and passed new workplace safety laws. These sources cannot tell us what every worker experienced inside the factory.

Accept accurate paraphrases that distinguish Perkins's observations from the later account's findings. Conclusions using the table should not treat its death totals as proof of how people died.