After the Shaking

Parallel timelines of two earthquake disasters

E.P.2.2.C "Evaluate how multiple, complex events are shaped by unique circumstances of time and place; construct and interpret parallel timelines."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline time clues for both cities. Circle local conditions or choices that changed what happened, so you can build and compare two timelines.

Two Earthquakes, Different Paths

1. On April 18, 1906, at about 5:12 a.m., an earthquake struck San Francisco. Before it struck, the growing port city had many wooden buildings, and water mains ran beneath its streets. The shaking broke those mains just as fires started. With little water available for firefighters, flames spread across blocks of the city over the next three days. Residents fled toward open ground or the waterfront. The quake did not act alone: construction materials, damaged pipes, and the city's crowded layout helped turn shaking into a much larger disaster. By the time the fires stopped, much of San Francisco lay in ruins.

2. On September 1, 1923, just before noon, a powerful earthquake struck Tokyo and nearby Yokohama. Many households were preparing lunch on cooking fires, and much of the urban area was built of wood. When buildings shook, fires broke out; strong winds pushed flames through crowded districts. In the following days, false rumors accused Korean residents of causing fires and poisoning wells. Vigilante groups killed many Koreans, turning prejudice into another deadly consequence of the disaster. The quake began the emergency, but the lunch hour, housing, weather, and human choices shaped what followed.

3. The two cities' timelines show why an earthquake's magnitude alone cannot explain its effects. In San Francisco, broken water mains hindered fire crews; in the Tokyo area, cooking fires and wind helped flames spread. During the months after the San Francisco disaster, some officials tried to move Chinatown away from its original site. Chinese residents and diplomats resisted, and Chinatown was rebuilt there. In Tokyo, planners widened some streets and created parks during reconstruction, hoping to reduce future fire risks. Recovery in each place followed its own path, shaped by local decisions as well as the earlier damage.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the time of day help shape the fires in the Tokyo area? What different condition made San Francisco's fires hard to stop?

2. What happened in the Tokyo area after the fires began that the earthquake itself cannot explain? Identify the human circumstance behind it.

3. Compare one recovery decision in each place. How did local choices shape what happened months after the earthquakes?

4. How do the two timelines challenge the claim that earthquakes alone determined what happened? Use one detail from each city.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Fill four rows to make parallel timelines for these stages in order: before the quake, first day, following days, and months afterward. In each city column, include a time clue, an event, and a local condition or choice; below the table, write one sentence comparing how the cities' paths differed.

STAGE	SAN FRANCISCO, 1906	TOKYO AREA, 1923

ANSWER KEY

After the Shaking

HIGH SCHOOL · E.P.2.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline time clues for both cities. Circle local conditions or choices that changed what happened, so you can build and compare two timelines. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the time of day help shape the fires in the Tokyo area? What different condition made San Francisco's fires hard to stop?	**The Tokyo-area quake struck near lunchtime, when cooking fires were in use. In San Francisco, broken water mains left firefighters with little water.**
2	What happened in the Tokyo area after the fires began that the earthquake itself cannot explain? Identify the human circumstance behind it.	**False rumors blamed Korean residents for fires and poisoned wells, and vigilantes killed many Koreans. Prejudice shaped this violence.**
3	Compare one recovery decision in each place. How did local choices shape what happened months after the earthquakes?	**Chinese residents and diplomats resisted moving Chinatown, which was rebuilt on its original site. Tokyo planners widened some streets and created parks to reduce future fire risks.**
4	How do the two timelines challenge the claim that earthquakes alone determined what happened? Use one detail from each city.	**In San Francisco, broken water mains helped fires spread for three days. In the Tokyo area, prejudice led to violence against Koreans after the quake.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the quake | Before April 18, a growing port city had wooden buildings and buried water mains. | Before September 1, many households used cooking fires in an area with wooden buildings.
First day | On April 18, shaking broke water mains as fires started, leaving firefighters little water. | On September 1, shaking started fires near lunchtime, and wind pushed the flames.
Following days | Over the next three days, fires spread across San Francisco with little water to stop them. | In the following days, false rumors and prejudice led vigilantes to kill many Koreans.
Months afterward | In the months after the quake, Chinese residents and diplomats resisted relocation, and Chinatown was rebuilt at its original site. | During reconstruction, planners widened some streets and created parks to reduce future fire risks.
Both cities faced fires, but their recovery paths reflected different local decisions.

Accept equivalent time clues and details grounded in the passage. The four rows should follow the named stages in order for both cities, and the comparison should identify a meaningful difference.