

Name: _____

Analyzing Words with Context Clues



Below is a passage from a May 4, 1906 article in *Collier's*, a popular magazine of the time. It was written by Jack London, who would go on to become a great American author. In this article, he tells about the destruction of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. Certain words have been replaced with blanks. Using the rest of the text as a clue, fill in the blanks with a word or phrase that would make sense in the article.

The Story of an Eyewitness

By Jack London, Collier's special correspondent

The earthquake shook down in San Francisco hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of walls and chimneys. But the 1) _____ that followed burned up hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property. There is no 2) _____ within hundreds of millions the actual damage 3) _____. Not in history has a modern 4) _____ city been so completely destroyed. San Francisco is gone. Nothing remains of it but memories and a fringe of 5) _____ on its outskirts. Its industrial section is wiped out. Its business section is wiped out. Its social and 6.) _____ section is wiped out. The factories and warehouses, the great stores and newspaper buildings, the hotels and the palaces of the 7.) _____ are all gone.

Within an hour after the earthquake shock the smoke of San Francisco's burning was a 8.) _____ tower visible a hundred miles away. And for three days and nights this tower swayed in the sky, reddening the sun, darkening the day, and filling the land with smoke.

Write the words you used in the appropriately numbered blank. In front of the number, write the letter of the word from the text that has a similar meaning.

- | | |
|-------|----------|
| _____ | 1. _____ |
| _____ | 2. _____ |
| _____ | 3. _____ |
| _____ | 4. _____ |
| _____ | 5. _____ |
| _____ | 6. _____ |
| _____ | 7. _____ |
| _____ | 8. _____ |

- A. imperial
- B. wrought
- C. residential
- D. conflagration
- E. lurid
- F. dwelling-houses
- G. estimating
- H. nabobs

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The Story of an Eyewitness

By Jack London, *Collier's* special correspondent

Students' answers will vary for the fill-in-the-blank section. Accept reasonable answers.

The earthquake shook down in San Francisco hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of walls and chimneys. But the 1) conflagration that followed burned up hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property. There is no 2) estimating within hundreds of millions the actual damage 3) wrought. Not in history has a modern 4) imperial city been so completely destroyed. San Francisco is gone. Nothing remains of it but memories and a fringe of 5) dwelling-houses on its outskirts. Its industrial section is wiped out. Its business section is wiped out. Its social and 6) residential section is wiped out. The factories and warehouses, the great stores and newspaper buildings, the hotels and the palaces of the 7) nabobs are all gone.

Within an hour after the earthquake shock the smoke of San Francisco's burning was a 8.) lurid tower visible a hundred miles away. And for three days and nights this tower swayed in the sky, reddening the sun, darkening the day, and filling the land with smoke.

Write the words you used in the appropriately numbered blank. In front of the number, write the letter of the word from the text that has a similar meaning. **Examples of correct fill-in the blank words:**

- | | |
|----------|--|
| <u>D</u> | 1. <u>fire</u> |
| <u>G</u> | 2. <u>guessing</u> |
| <u>B</u> | 3. <u>done</u> |
| <u>A</u> | 4. <u>grand or large</u> |
| <u>F</u> | 5. <u>shack or house</u> |
| <u>C</u> | 6. <u>living or neighborhood</u> |
| <u>H</u> | 7. <u>wealthy</u> |
| <u>E</u> | 8. <u>brightly colored or horrible</u> |

- A. imperial
- B. wrought
- C. residential
- D. conflagration
- E. lurid
- F. dwelling-houses
- G. estimating
- H. nabobs