



# READING **Grade 6**

**2015 Released Test Questions**



## A Bridge for Waco

In 1866 the town leaders in Waco, Texas, decided to build a bridge over the Brazos River.



In 1866 the town leaders in Waco, Texas, decided to build a bridge over the Brazos River. Before the bridge was built, people had to take a ferry boat to cross the river.

2b



Library of Congress



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Building the Waco Suspension Bridge over the Brazos River was a difficult job that cost a lot of money. Materials for the bridge had to be shipped from hundreds of miles away to a port in South Texas. At the port the materials were put on railroad cars and oxcarts to be delivered to Waco.



3a

More than 2.7 million bricks were used to build the two double towers at each end of the bridge. Cables attached to the towers supported the wooden roadway over the river. The road was wide enough for two stagecoaches to pass. The bridge was the longest single-span bridge west of the Mississippi River.



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More than 145 years ago, when the Waco Suspension Bridge opened, it was a toll bridge. People who used the bridge had to pay a fee to the owners. Even cattle drivers had to pay five cents for each cow that crossed the bridge. The bridge provided a safe way to cross the Brazos River not just for cattle but also for traders, travelers, and all people heading west. When the bridge was sold to the city of Waco, it became free for the public to use.

After many years of use, the bridge was rebuilt to support more cars and trucks. A walkway for people was also added. These changes allowed travelers to continue using the bridge for many more years.

4a

Today the bridge is closed to cars and trucks. People walk across this bridge that connects two parks. The famous bridge still reminds people of the city's history.

The author put the events in the order they happened to —

describe how the bridge helped the people who lived in Waco

describe how the bridge has been used over time

describe Waco before the bridge was built