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name



Directions:
print, complete, staple together & submit pages: 1,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13

Measure R

Preview

Activate Schema. Scan to see what you know about traffic patterns, gridlock, and how to approach this issue.

Establish a Purpose for Reading. What do you need to learn?

Vocabulary: complete page 7 before reading the selection.

Read & Integrate Knowledge

Predict Picture Relate Monitor Fix

Residents of Los Angeles, California must deal with gridlock traffic every day. It can take up to an hour to get from the east side of the city to the west side, especially during rush hour, which can last up to three hours. Over the past decade, the city government has made legislative inroads in expanding and building public transportation, in part, in order to alleviate the hours of driving commuters must put in on a daily basis. Car culture in Los Angeles is so pervasive that many residents oppose the building and expansion of existing subway and bus lines. Some residents, especially in high-density housing in Hollywood, have filed official complaints with the city and housing authority in areas that have been marked by government officials as potential opportunities for public transportation. One of the major complaints about the expansion of public transportation in Los Angeles has to do with residents losing their views of the city from their residences in the hilly neighborhoods just below the Hollywood Hills.

One of the issues that plague transportation in Los Angeles is that it is basically necessary to own a car—due to the city’s sprawl and far-flung neighborhoods—in order to get by. Public transportation in the city consists primarily of an inefficient bus system, which does not run on a consistent and timely schedule, often getting stuck in the same traffic as cars, and an incomplete subway system, which is inaccessible to many commuters. For wealthier residents of Los Angeles, who are able to pay monthly car payments and ever-rising gas costs, this issue does not hold much importance. However, the issue is a daily problem for Angelenos (that is the name of Los Angeles’ inhabitants) who are unable to purchase or rent a car. They must leave early to get to work on time, and return home late. The commute bleeds into work-life balance, making it difficult to have significant personal or family time after getting home.

In 2008, city officials put forward Measure R, a piece of legislation that would raise sales taxes by a half-cent for 30 years. The measure was then extended in 2012 with the name of Measure J. The publication *The Huffington Post* reported that the money would go toward transportation projects and improvements promoted as a way to “improve the environment by getting more Angelenos out of their cars and into the region’s growing subway, light rail, and bus services.” By 2039, Measures R and J will have been responsible for the funding of the construction or expansion of a dozen rail lines in Los Angeles County. The specific projects that Measure R is intended to fund include: the “Subway to the Sea,” which will run through Beverly Hills; the Green Line light rail, which will run to LAX International Airport; the addition of carpool lanes (accessible only to cars driving two or more people) to major freeways; and the widening of the I-5 freeway. Angelenos have met these projects with a variety of emotions: one of the more notorious reactions has been dissent, and even outright hostility.

To those who had initially been opposed to Measure R, a significant event in Los Angeles transportation history provided some perspective: the so-called “Carmageddon.” The Sepulveda Pass is a 10-mile stretch of the I-405 freeway, with Sepulveda Boulevard winding along next to it, which connects drivers to the San Fernando Valley and to the west side of Los Angeles, as well as Mulholland Drive. As part of the Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project, the I-405 was closed on the Sepulveda Pass to all drivers for an entire weekend in 2011 in order to expand one of the bridges that connect Mulholland Drive across the hills of the Santa Monica Mountain range. The expansion was necessary in order to introduce an extra lane to the I-405, a project intended to alleviate the high levels of traffic that occur in the Sepulveda Pass on an almost hourly basis. The weekend closure would be mimicked almost exactly a year later, during the summer of 2012, in order to do more roadwork.

The lead-up to “Carmageddon” was feverish: then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa urged residents to get out of town, or at least to stay off the roads; billboards were posted up all over the city letting Angelenos know about the coming closure; radio statements were made by all the major radio personalities; one airline offered four-dollar plane rides from Los Angeles to Orange County; bike groups sponsored cross-city excursions; helicopter companies offered half-hour long discounted rides to see the construction in action from the air; and local bars and restaurants offered “Carmageddon” specials, which included special dishes and discounts on food and drink. The Los Angeles Police Department was brought in to ensure drivers did not sneak onto the freeway or onto Sepulveda.

In both the San Fernando Valley and the west side of Los Angeles, residents were interviewed and questioned about their experience of “Carmageddon,” and what their plans were for the weekend.

“I’m just going to take the Mayor’s advice and get out of town!” a man living in Sherman Oaks told reporters. He was planning on going to Las Vegas for the weekend, to soak up some sun and do some gambling.

“The mayor did local business a real disservice, by making that statement,” T. Donovan, an employee at a popular cheese and charcuterie store in the Valley, told reporters, shaking his head. “This could have been a really great opportunity to jumpstart community and neighborhood spirits.” His store was offering a “Carmageddon” sandwich, which included ingredients sourced from farms west of the Los Angeles city center and away from the Sepulveda Pass.

The furor leading up to the weekend only heightened the lack of tension when the closure actually occurred. People weren’t even driving on freeways and streets unaffected by the closure: the streets were, for once, close to empty and free from traffic. In a sense, it was as if a breath of fresh air had descended on the city: people realized that maybe they *didn’t* need cars to survive in Los Angeles. The reaction to the closure only strengthened the response to the need for public transportation in Los Angeles.

A year later, in 2012, the second closure was scheduled for another summer weekend. This time, there was little hullabaloo about the closure: the term "Carmageddon" had been just about forgotten. Instead, Angelenos seemed to welcome the respite from reliance on cars and traffic that the closure afforded them. More residents stayed in the city the second time the closure occurred, and a much more relaxed attitude was palpable: airlines did not offer hour-long lifts across the county, and helicopter tours were not advertised.

Perhaps residents' experience with both years of closures will pave the way for more support for public transport, and perhaps even more transportation legislation. One thing is clear, though: Los Angeles is in dire need of a solution to its traffic problem. The sooner this fact is accepted, the sooner change will occur.

Recall

Comprehension Questions

(circle the best answer)

5

1. According to the passage, what must residents of Los Angeles, California deal with?

- A badly constructed roadways
- B unpredictable weather
- C gridlock traffic
- D government gridlock

2. What problem do Measures R and J attempt to address?

- A Measures R and J attempt to reverse the "carmageddon."
- B Measures R and J attempt to lower taxes for Angelenos.
- C Measures R and J attempt to encourage more Angelenos to use their cars.
- D Measures R and J attempt to expand public transportation in Los Angeles.

3. In the passage, the author describes the many hours that it takes for drivers to get across Los Angeles. Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be made?

- A Gridlock traffic in Los Angeles is very bad.
- B Angelenos need to get their cars fixed.
- C Los Angeles has a great system of public transportation.
- D There are very few cars in Los Angeles.

4. How did Angelenos most likely feel in the lead-up to "Carmeggedon"?

- A terrified
- B anxious
- C happy
- D confused

5. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A Los Angeles has a great system of public transportation.
- B Los Angeles needs a solution to its traffic problem.
- C "Carmageddon" was very harmful to Los Angeles.
- D Car culture improves the lives of people in Los Angeles.

6. Read the following sentences: "Public transportation in the city consists primarily of an **inefficient** bus system, which does not run on a consistent and timely schedule, often getting stuck in the same traffic as cars, and an incomplete subway system, which is inaccessible to many commuters."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**inefficient**" mean?

- A poorly operated
- B important
- C logical
- D dangerous

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

There was furor leading up to "Carmaggedon;" _____, there was a lack of tension when the closure actually occurred.

- A particularly
- B moreover
- C and
- D however

8. Why is it basically necessary to own a car in Los Angeles?

9. The lead-up to "carmaggedon" was feverish. Which evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

10. Why does the author suggest that Los Angeles residents' experience with years of road closures will pave the way for more support for public transportation expansion and legislation? Use evidence from the text to support your answer



Solving New York City’s Hurricane Problem with Representation
by Alissa Fleck

Preview

Activate Schema. Scan to see what you know about hurricanes and how they affect big cities.

Establish a Purpose for Reading. What do you need to learn?

Vocabulary: complete page 13 before reading the selection.

Read & Integrate Knowledge

Predict Picture Relate Monitor Fix

Sketches or drawings can help people communicate to others ideas about how to solve problems, big or small. Drawings make ideas visual, so they are easier to understand than a spoken or written explanation, and using them allows for many different drafts to be presented before deciding on a final product.

When a hurricane hit New York City in 2012, the city realized it was not prepared to handle such a disaster. The hurricane damaged the city badly and left many people without homes. Sea levels were going to continue to rise, which meant potential for more hurricanes and flooding, and the government realized it had to change some things about the city to make it better able to handle future disasters.

Rather than simply begin building bigger, stronger structures, like a giant wall around the city or a gate to keep water out, people started sketching out their ideas about how to make New York a place that could better withstand hurricanes. These people were experts chosen to take on the task of re-imagining the city. By using drawings, people were able to debate these ideas, decide which ones were best and change them as they saw fit. Drawings also allowed experts in certain areas to show and explain things to people who didn't know as much as them about those subjects.

Some people focused on how to change the city's natural environment, like the grassy areas next to the ocean, to make them more hurricane-friendly. They drew and presented sketches that showed how these areas could be used to absorb seawater. They also drew in things that could be planted to grow better in the changing environment, like plants that can withstand seawater.

Others focused on important city buildings like hospitals. Hospitals in New York City were hit hard by the hurricane, and many people struggled to get the emergency care and basic medical help they needed during the disaster. The experts' drawings focused on ways to make hospital buildings stronger so that they could meet people's needs even in a crisis.

Others looked at how to improve public transportation, which is very important to keeping the city running. After the hurricane, many people in the city were stranded with no way to get around because the train system was badly affected by the storm. Transportation experts drew up ways to pump water out of train tunnels more quickly and get trains up and running sooner.

People brought their drawings together and looked at all the ways to improve the city. Some ideas had to be rejected and replaced by more useful ones. The experts presented their ideas to the public at meetings because these changes would affect everyone living in the city and they wanted the citizens to be engaged in the process.

Finally the city was able to decide on a plan it would use to start making the city stronger, and it used these sketches and representations to figure out other things, like how much it would cost the city, how many workers would be needed and how long the construction projects might take. Using the teamwork of many experts and sketch artists, the city was able to begin planning New York City's future and work toward preventing potential dangers.

Recall

10

Comprehension Questions

(circle the best answer)

1. What did people use when discussing how to protect New York City against hurricanes?

- A drawings
- B medical help
- C seawater
- D construction projects

2. The threat of another hurricane is a problem for New York City. What have people done to help solve this problem?

- A People have moved to homes outside New York City.
- B People have built sculptures of New York City.
- C People have figured out ways to change New York City.
- D People have spent less money on public transportation in New York City.

3. When a hurricane hit New York City in 2012, the city was not fully prepared to handle it.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A Drawings can help people exchange ideas with each other about how to solve problems, big or small.
- B Because drawings make ideas visible, they can be easier to understand than spoken or written explanations.
- C Sea levels are expected to keep rising, which means New York City may experience one or more hurricanes in the future.
- D Many people struggled to get medical help during the hurricane and were left without homes afterward.

4. What was one reason for using drawings when discussing improvements to New York City after the hurricane?

- A Some people prefer hearing an idea explained by an expert than seeing a drawing of that idea by a non-expert.
- B Drawings made it easier for many people to understand the improvements being discussed.
- C During the hurricane, many people in New York City were stranded and could not get the medical care they needed.
- D Some ideas that people came up with were not as good as others and had to be replaced.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A the damage that a 2012 hurricane did to hospitals and the train system in New York City
- B ideas that had to be rejected when figuring out ways to protect New York City from hurricanes
- C how grassy areas in New York City next to the ocean could be used to absorb seawater
- D ways to protect New York City from hurricanes and how drawings helped people discuss those ways

6. Read the following sentences: "Some people focused on how to change the city's natural environment, like the grassy areas next to the ocean, to make them more hurricane-friendly. They drew and presented **sketches** that showed how these areas could be used to absorb seawater."

What does the word **sketches** mean?

- A ideas for making something better
- B problems with public transportation
- C drawings without many details
- D meetings between experts and non-experts

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

New York City was damaged by a hurricane; _____, the city started looking for ways to protect itself against other hurricanes.

- A consequently
- B however
- C before
- D for instance

8. Name one thing that people drew as they worked on ways to protect New York City from hurricanes.

9. What is one example of how the drawings of ways to change New York City were shared?

10. The passages states that “drawings can help people communicate to others ideas about how to solve problems, big or small.” Using evidence from the passage, explain how drawings helped people communicate ideas about how to solve New York City’s hurricane problem.

Vocabulary

Word = Useful vocabulary in this reading selection (Some are provided. You supply more).

Definition = Define each word.

Synonym = Provide a synonym for each word.

Etymology = Circle any etymological words parts in each word and define them in this column.

Word	Definition	Synonym	Etymology
structure			
disaster			
potential			
hurricane			
absorb			
environment			
withstand			
reject			
export			
realize			