STUDENT BOOK PG 40

Activity week 1

The San Francisco Earthquake

On January 24, 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold in a small town of 1,000 people on the coast of California. Thousands of people came to California from all over the U.S. and built the city of San Francisco. In less than 50 years, San Francisco became the largest city on the west coast, with a population of 410,000. But in 1906, the San Francisco earthquake destroyed most of the city ...

The people of San Francisco were asleep when the earthquake happened at 5:12 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, 1906. The earthquake wasn't long, only a minute, but it was extremely strong. A fire started after the earthquake and spread quickly. Everything was very dry, and the city fire department didn't have any water. People think that the fire caused 90% of the damage to the city.

The earthquake badly damaged the studio of Arnold Genthe, a photographer, and his cameras didn't work. Genthe went to a camera store and borrowed a new camera. "Take anything you want," the man in the camera store laughed. "This place is going to burn anyway."

Genthe walked around the city and took pictures of the fire. His most famous picture shows people in Sacramento Street as they watched the smoke. "Some stood and others sat on chairs," Genthe said. "When the flames came closer to them, they carried their chairs up the street. Then they sat down again."

The fire burned for four days. By the evening of Saturday, April 21, there weren't many buildings left in San Francisco. The fire destroyed 500 blocks in the downtown area, and 250,000 people lost their homes. At the time, the government reported only 375 deaths. But now people think that at least 3,000 died in the earthquake and fire.

AFTER READING

True or false? Correct the false sentences.

1 The San Francisco earthquake was in 1848.
2 A fire started before the earthquake.
3 The fire caused most of the damage.
4 Arnold Genthe borrowed an old camera from a store.
5 Genthe took pictures of the earthquake.
6 In Sacramento Street, some of the people sat on chairs.
7 The fire burned for five days.
8 The fire destroyed 5,000 blocks.
9 A quarter of a million people didn't have anywhere to live.
10 Now people think that at least 5,000 died.

LIVEWORKSHEETS