



**Texas City Disaster
4th Grade Questions**

1) Based on the image in slide 1 what is your impression of Texas City?

2) What happened to the Texas City firefighters combating the fire on the *SS Grandcamp*?

3) What happened to the *SS Grandcamp*?

4) Why did Harold J. "Bumpy" Baumgartner look for shelter after the explosion?

5) What problems could the shrapnel cause?



6) What did Harold J. “Bumpy” Baumgartner say would have happened if he had stayed at home?

7) Based on the images in slides four and five how would you describe the damage to Texas City?

8) What happened to the Monsanto chemical plant?

9) What happened to James R. Fair after the explosion?

10) Of the seven Monsanto engineers how many survived?



11) What was James R. Fair's job after the explosion?

12) Based on the pictures of the docks, what conclusions can you draw about the scale of the damage? Explain.

13) To what extent were residential areas affected by the explosions?

14) How did Herb Medsger survive the rain of shrapnel after the explosion?

15) According to Herb Medsger what were the conditions of the houses he saw?



16) What role did John M. Thiel play in aiding those injured in the Texas City explosions?

17) How long did Thiel work in the operating room?

18) How many workers perished at the Monsanto plant?

19) What happened to Calvin Perry “Pappy” Martin’s home and wife?

20) What kind of damage did the docks, refineries, plants, and residential areas suffer from the explosions of the *SS Grandcamp* and *SS High Flyer*?

21) Did people go and watch the SS Grandcamp when it was burning? Why?



22) Why did Placido “Pye” Zaragoza decide not to go watch the fire?

23) What happened to his two brothers?

24) What happened to those people Mary Jimenez Zaragoza was watching the fire with?

25) What happened to Mary Jimenez Zaragoza and her mom when the *SS Grandcamp* exploded?

26) Based on the images and excerpts, how would you describe the Texas City explosion and how people reacted to the disaster?