The Texas City Disaster
4th Grade Worksheet

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?