



The Texas City Disaster
7th Grade Questions

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

- 2) What happened to the *SS Grandcamp*?

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

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

- 5) Why was shrapnel a problem?



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

7) Based on the images throughout this PSA, how would you describe the damage to Texas City?

8) What happened to the Monsanto Chemical Plant after the explosion?

9) What happened to the first shift workers of Monsanto Chemical Plant?

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



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) Based on the written accounts and images, how did the explosions affect the residential areas?

14) How did Herb Medsger survive the explosion?

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



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

17) What was Calvin Perry “Pappy” Martin doing when the *SS Grandcamp* exploded?

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

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

20) Why did people go and watch the *SS Grandcamp* when it was burning?



21) Based on the text and images, what is your impression of the medical situation in Texas City after the explosion?

22) Why were mass funerals needed?

23) Based on what you have learned about the Texas City Disaster, if you were a city manager, what emergency plans would you recommend a city to develop?
