

Englischarbeit Klasse 8

Thema: The passive – California

Name: _____ Datum: _____

Punkte: _____ / 40 Note: _____

Unterschrift: _____



Good luck!

Read the text. Then do tasks 1 and 2.

When the ground starts shaking – earthquakes in California

California is a wonderful place to live, but it has one big danger: earthquakes. The state lies on the San Andreas Fault, a giant crack in the earth's crust where two plates move past each other. Every year thousands of small earthquakes are recorded, but most of them are too weak to be noticed. Sometimes, however, the plates move suddenly – and then whole cities can be destroyed.

The most famous earthquake in the history of the USA hit San Francisco early in the morning on 18 April 1906. The shaking lasted only about 45 seconds, but it was so strong that houses, churches and hotels fell down. The worst part, however, came after the earthquake. Gas pipes had broken, and fires started all over the city.

Because the water pipes had been destroyed too, the firefighters had almost no water. The fires burned for three days. Soldiers were sent into the city to help. They kept order and blew up whole rows of houses to stop the flames. More than 3,000 people were killed, and more than 200,000 – over half of the people in the city – had lost their homes. For months, many families lived in tents in Golden Gate Park.

On 17 October 1989, at 5.04 in the afternoon, the ground shook again. The Loma Prieta earthquake lasted about 15 seconds. A part of the Bay Bridge collapsed, and in Oakland a motorway with two levels fell onto the cars below. 63 people were killed and about 12,000 were left homeless. It could have been much worse: many people had left work early that day because an important baseball game between the two big teams of the Bay Area was about to start. So there was less traffic on the roads than usual.

Only five years later, on 17 January 1994, an earthquake hit Northridge, a part of Los Angeles. It happened at 4.31 in the morning, when most people were still asleep, and it lasted about 20 seconds. Motorways and car parks collapsed, and thousands of homes were badly damaged. 57 people died, and more than 20,000 had to leave their homes.

Today, California is much better prepared. Strict building rules have been introduced, so new houses, schools and bridges must be built to survive strong earthquakes. Many old buildings and bridges have been made stronger with steel. And every October, millions of Californians take part in the "Great ShakeOut", a big earthquake drill: they practise "Drop, Cover and Hold On". Nobody knows when the next "Big One" will come – but Californians want to be ready.

Vocabulary: *fault* – Verwerfung · *crust* – Erdkruste · *to blow up* – sprengen · *to collapse* – einstürzen · *level* – Ebene · *drill* – Übung

1 Reading: Facts and figures

Complete the table with information from the text.

earthquake	When did it happen?	How long did the shaking last?	How many people were killed?	How many people were left homeless?
The great San Francisco earthquake				
The Loma Prieta earthquake				
The Northridge earthquake				

___ / 6

2 Reading: Questions on the text

Answer the questions in complete sentences. Use your own words.

a) Why were the fires in 1906 even more dangerous than the shaking itself?

b) How did the soldiers help after the earthquake in 1906? Name two things.

c) Why could the Loma Prieta earthquake have been much worse?

d) What has California done to be better prepared for earthquakes? Name three things.

___ / 8

3 Grammar: The Golden Gate Bridge

Put the verbs in brackets into the passive. Use the correct tense or the modal verb given.

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco (1) _____ (build) between 1933 and 1937. Before 1937, people and cars (2) _____ (carry) across the water by ferry boats. The famous colour of the bridge, "International Orange", (3) _____ (choose) by the architect Irving Morrow because a warm, bright colour (4) _____ (can / see) well in the fog. Since its opening, the bridge (5) _____ (paint) again and again. Today, the steel (6) _____ (protect) from the salty sea air by a team of painters who work on the bridge all year round. Every day, the bridge (7) _____ (use) by about 100,000 cars, buses and trucks. A toll (8) _____ (only / collect) from drivers who are going south into the city. Cash is not accepted any more – the toll (9) _____ (must / pay) online or with an electronic tag. In 2037 the bridge will be 100 years old. Its birthday (10) _____ (certainly / celebrate) with a big party.

___ / 10

4 Grammar: Personal passive

Rewrite the sentences in the passive. Start with the person.

Example: *Somebody sent Jake a postcard from Hollywood. → Jake was sent a postcard from Hollywood.*

a) A park ranger gave our class a tour of Alcatraz.

b) A café in Santa Monica has offered my sister a summer job.

c) The guide showed us the giant redwood trees in Muir Woods.

d) They might send me a free ticket for the baseball game.

e) What did the hotel manager tell you about the earthquake drill?

___ / 5

5

Start each paragraph with a topic sentence.

introduction · industry and jobs · tourism · problems · conclusion

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings visible.

Lösung: Englischarbeit Klasse 8

Insgesamt sind 40 Punkte erreichbar, halbe Punkte sind möglich.

Note 1	Note 2	Note 3	Note 4	Note 5	Note 6
40–36 P.	35,5–32 P.	31,5–26 P.	25,5–20 P.	19,5–12 P.	11,5–0 P.

1 Reading: Facts and figures

Complete the table with information from the text.

earthquake	When did it happen?	How long did the shaking last?	How many people were killed?	How many people were left homeless?
The great San Francisco earthquake	18 April 1906	about 45 seconds	more than 3,000	more than 200,000
The Loma Prieta earthquake	17 October 1989	about 15 seconds	63	about 12,000
The Northridge earthquake	17 January 1994	about 20 seconds	57	more than 20,000

6 / 6

2 Reading: Questions on the text

Answer the questions in complete sentences. Use your own words.

- a) Why were the fires in 1906 even more dangerous than the shaking itself?
Gas pipes had broken, so fires started all over the city. The water pipes had been destroyed too, so the firefighters had almost no water to put out the fires. The fires burned for three days.
- b) How did the soldiers help after the earthquake in 1906? Name two things.
They kept order in the city, and they blew up whole rows of houses to stop the flames.
- c) Why could the Loma Prieta earthquake have been much worse?
Many people had left work early because of an important baseball game, so there was less traffic on the roads (and on the Bay Bridge and the motorway) than usual.
- d) What has California done to be better prepared for earthquakes? Name three things.
Strict building rules have been introduced: new houses, schools and bridges must be built to survive strong earthquakes. Many old buildings and bridges have been made stronger with steel. Every October millions of people take part in a big earthquake drill (the Great ShakeOut).

8 / 8

3 Grammar: The Golden Gate Bridge

Put the verbs in brackets into the passive. Use the correct tense or the modal verb given.

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco (1) was built (*build*) between 1933 and 1937. Before 1937, people and cars (2) were carried / had been carried (*carry*) across the water by ferry boats. The famous colour of the bridge, "International Orange", (3) was chosen (*choose*) by the architect Irving Morrow because a warm, bright colour (4) can be seen (*can / see*) well in the fog.

Since its opening, the bridge (5) has been painted (*paint*) again and again.

Today, the steel (6) is protected (*protect*) from the salty sea air by a team of painters who work on the bridge all year round. Every day, the bridge (7) is used (*use*) by about 100,000 cars, buses and trucks. A toll (8) is only collected (*only / collect*) from drivers who are going south into the city. Cash is not accepted any more – the toll (9) must be paid (*must / pay*) online or with an electronic tag.

In 2037 the bridge will be 100 years old. Its birthday (10) will certainly be celebrated (*certainly / celebrate*) with a big party.

10 / 10

4 Grammar: Personal passive

Rewrite the sentences in the passive. Start with the person.

Example: *Somebody sent Jake a postcard from Hollywood.* → *Jake was sent a postcard from Hollywood.*

- a) A park ranger gave our class a tour of Alcatraz.
Our class was given a tour of Alcatraz (by a park ranger).
- b) A café in Santa Monica has offered my sister a summer job.
My sister has been offered a summer job (by a café in Santa Monica).
- c) The guide showed us the giant redwood trees in Muir Woods.
We were shown the giant redwood trees in Muir Woods (by the guide).
- d) They might send me a free ticket for the baseball game.
I might be sent a free ticket for the baseball game.
- e) What did the hotel manager tell you about the earthquake drill?
What were you told about the earthquake drill (by the hotel manager)?

5 / 5

5 Writing: California – a dreamland?

Write an essay of about 150 words. Write five paragraphs: an introduction, a paragraph about industry and jobs, one about tourism, one about the problems of California, and a conclusion with your own opinion.

Start each paragraph with a topic sentence.

Beispiellösung (Stichpunkte; andere sachlich richtige Inhalte sind ebenso richtig):

- **Introduction:** California – the “Golden State” on the west coast of the USA, the state with the most people (about 39 million); many people dream of living there.
- **Industry and jobs:** Silicon Valley with big computer and internet companies; the film industry in Hollywood; agriculture in the Central Valley (fruit, vegetables, nuts, wine); good universities.
- **Tourism:** beaches and surfing, sunny weather; Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, Hollywood, Disneyland; national parks such as Yosemite, giant redwood trees, Death Valley.
- **Problems:** earthquakes; wildfires and droughts (not enough water); houses and flats are very expensive, many people have no home; traffic jams and air pollution in the big cities.
- **Conclusion:** own opinion with a reason, e.g. California is a dreamland for tourists and for people with good jobs, but life there is not easy for everybody.

Beispiele für topic sentences:

- California is one of the most important economic regions in the world.
- Every year millions of tourists are attracted by California’s sights and its sunny weather.
- However, life in California is not always as perfect as it seems.