Find the Evidence

**Directions:** Read each question below carefully. Some will ask you to select two or three pieces of text evidence—or details in the story—to support a statement. Others will ask you to respond in your own words, supporting your ideas with text.

1. **Alcatraz was considered the most escape-proof prison in the United States.** Circle the letters of **TWO pieces of text evidence** that best demonstrate what made it so secure:
   a. “Lights out was at 9:30 p.m.—on the dot.”
   b. “During the Civil War, in the 1860s, the small 22-acre island was used as a military prison.”
   c. “Inmates could listen only to certain radio programs approved by the warden.”
   d. “Men who had tried to escape before had drowned swimming in the freezing waters of San Francisco Bay.”
   e. “The public felt that a ‘super-prison’ was just what the country needed.”
   f. “Guards counted the inmates many times each day and night.”

2. **In your own words, explain why the U.S. Department of Justice decided to turn Alcatraz into a federal prison in 1934.** Use details from the text.

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3. **Circle the letters of **TWO pieces of text evidence** that best demonstrate why Al Capone had to admit, “Alcatraz has got me licked.”**
   a. “Prisons across the country were notified that Alcatraz was ready to take troublemakers off their hands.”
   b. “Every prisoner at Alcatraz was treated the same, and there was nothing he could do about it.”
   c. “The prisoners rode in specially designed railroad cars with steel bars across the windows.”
   d. “He was allowed to see family, but not friends—or fellow gangsters.”
   e. “During the day, guards marched the inmates to jobs in the laundry, the garden, and the tailor shop.”
   f. “After breakfast, utensils were counted.”

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4. In your own words, explain how Frank Morris and the Anglin brothers escaped from Alcatraz. Use details from the text.

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5. Officials inferred that Morris and the Anglin brothers had drowned. Choose THREE pieces of text evidence that support this inference:
   a. After the men were discovered missing, a body was found floating in the bay.
   b. Officials believed the strong current in the San Francisco Bay swept them out to sea.
   c. A raft was discovered on a nearby island.
   d. If the prisoners had fallen into the water, survival would have been unlikely because of hypothermia.
   e. A car was reportedly stolen the night of the escape.
   f. A massive search turned up nothing.

6. You can infer from the escape plan created and carried out by Frank Morris that he was an ingenious planner. Use text evidence to explain why.

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