

Sample worksheet to accompany the article “How do we make buildings and roads safer?” (see Resources)

**Part 1**

Nonfiction articles often contain specialized vocabulary that is not used in normal speaking. To save people the trouble of looking up new terms in the dictionary, many authors define the words that they need their readers to understand by explaining their meaning within the article. Look for the definitions of the following new words and write them on the lines next to the word.

- retrofit \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- seismic retrofit \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

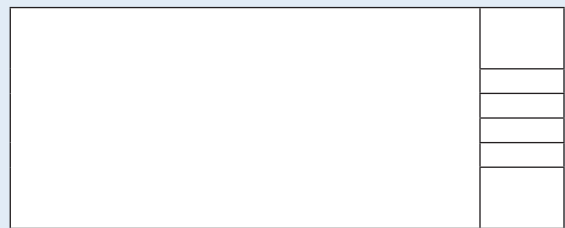
**Part 2**

Read the rest of the article and answer the questions below in complete sentences. You may fill in the blanks with the missing terms.

1. Retrofitting can be expensive. Why does the author argue that it is worth doing anyway? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. There are two main ideas given for protecting a building from the side-to-side shaking of an earthquake. What are they? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3. Walls and foundations are designed to be strong enough to support the weight of all the floors above them. They are strong enough to resist the force of gravity pushing down on them. What is different about the motion of an earthquake? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Below is a sketch of the framework of a building. Add cross-bracing to protect it.



A second type of retrofitting involves placing something underneath the building so that it does not rest directly on the ground. What are these parts called? \_\_\_\_\_ These parts act as “cushions” or “springs” to absorb the movement and shaking of the earthquake so that it is not passed on to the building itself. The author says it is similar to what part of a car? \_\_\_\_\_