Name: _____ Date: _____

# A Basket Hangs Under a Hot Air Balloon

Circle group

A hot air balloon is a big bag full of air. A basket hangs under it. People ride in the basket.

A burner makes a flame. The flame heats the air in the bag. Hot air is lighter than cool air. So the balloon goes up and up.

To come down, the pilot lets some hot air out. The air cools. The balloon sinks. It cannot steer like a car. The wind moves it.

## Questions

**1. Where do the people ride?**

_____

_____

**2. What does the flame do?**

_____

_____

**3. Which is lighter, hot air or cool air?**

_____

_____

**4. How does the pilot bring the balloon down?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does the balloon drift?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

balloon: a big bag that floats when it is full of hot air
burner: a tool that makes a flame to give heat
pilot: the person who flies a balloon or a plane

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# A Basket Hangs Under a Hot Air Balloon

Triangle group

A hot air balloon is a giant bag filled with air. A basket hangs under it. The people ride in the basket.

At the bottom of the bag is a burner. It makes a big flame. The flame heats the air inside the bag. Hot air is lighter than cool air, so the hot air pushes the balloon up. Up, up, up it goes!

To come down, the pilot lets some of the hot air out. The air in the bag cools off. The balloon sinks slowly back to the ground. A balloon cannot steer like a car. It drifts with the wind.

## Questions

**1. Where do the people ride?**

_____

_____

**2. What does the flame do?**

_____

_____

**3. Which is lighter, hot air or cool air?**

_____

_____

**4. How does the pilot bring the balloon down?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does a balloon drift in the sky?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

balloon: a big bag that floats when it is full of hot air
burner: a tool that makes a flame to give heat
pilot: the person who flies a balloon or a plane
drift: to move slowly along with the wind

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# A Basket Hangs Under a Hot Air Balloon

Square group

A hot air balloon is an enormous bag filled with air, and a basket hangs beneath it. The passengers stand inside the basket while the balloon carries them through the sky.

Near the bottom of the bag sits a burner that makes a roaring flame. The flame heats the air inside the bag. Because hot air is lighter than cool air, the hot air lifts the whole balloon higher and higher.

When it is time to land, the pilot lets some of the hot air escape. The air inside the bag cools off, and the balloon sinks gently toward the ground. A balloon cannot be steered the way a car can, so it simply drifts along wherever the wind blows it.

## Questions

**1. Where do the passengers stand?**

_____

_____

**2. What does the flame from the burner do?**

_____

_____

**3. Which is lighter, hot air or cool air?**

_____

_____

**4. How does the pilot make the balloon land?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does a balloon drift wherever the wind blows?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

balloon: a big bag that floats when it is full of hot air

burner: a tool that makes a flame to give heat

pilot: the person who flies a balloon or a plane
drift: to move slowly along with the wind

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: A Basket Hangs Under a Hot Air Balloon

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: A Basket Hangs Under a Hot Air Balloon

Easier · 74 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.5

1. In the basket.
2. It heats the air in the bag.
3. Hot air.
4. The pilot lets hot air out.
5. It cannot steer, so the wind moves it.

### Triangle: A Basket Hangs Under a Hot Air Balloon

This passage · 103 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. In the basket under the balloon.
2. It heats the air inside the bag.
3. Hot air.
4. The pilot lets some hot air out.
5. It cannot steer like a car, so the wind moves it.

### Square: A Basket Hangs Under a Hot Air Balloon

Harder · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. Inside the basket that hangs beneath the balloon.
2. It heats the air inside the bag.
3. Hot air is lighter.
4. The pilot lets some of the hot air escape.
5. It cannot be steered the way a car can.