Name: _____ Date: _____

# Big Back Tires on the Tractor

Circle group

A tractor is a strong farm machine. It has two big wheels in the back. It has two small wheels in the front.

The big tires have thick ridges. The ridges dig into mud and dirt. They help the tire grip. The tire does not slip.

The tires are wide, too. A wide tire spreads out the weight. It does not sink in.

A tractor can pull a heavy cart or a plow in a muddy field.

## Questions

**1. How many big wheels are in the back?**

_____

_____

**2. What do the thick ridges do?**

_____

_____

**3. What does a wide tire spread out?**

_____

_____

**4. What can a tractor pull?**

_____

_____

**5. Why would smooth, skinny tires have trouble in mud?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

tractor: a strong farm machine that pulls heavy things
ridge: a thin raised line on a surface
grip: to hold onto a surface so you do not slip
plow: a farm tool that turns over the soil

## 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: _____

# Big Back Tires on the Tractor

Triangle group

A tractor is a strong machine that works on a farm. It has two big wheels in the back and two smaller wheels in the front.

Look closely at the big tires. They have thick ridges that look like bumps and lines. The ridges dig into soft dirt and mud. They help the tire grip, so it does not slip.

The tires are wide, too. A wide tire spreads out the weight of the tractor. It does not sink into the ground as easily.

With big gripping tires, a tractor can pull a heavy cart or a plow across a muddy field.

## Questions

**1. How many big wheels does the tractor have in the back?**

_____

_____

**2. What do the thick ridges do?**

_____

_____

**3. What does a wide tire spread out?**

_____

_____

**4. What can a tractor pull across a field?**

_____

_____

**5. Why would a tractor with smooth, skinny tires have trouble in mud?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

tractor: a strong farm machine that pulls heavy things
ridge: a thin raised line on a surface
grip: to hold onto a surface so you do not slip

plow: a farm tool that turns over the soil

## 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: _____

# Big Back Tires on the Tractor

Square group

A tractor is a powerful machine that does hard work on a farm. It usually has two enormous wheels at the back and two smaller wheels at the front.

If you look closely at the big tires, you will see thick ridges that look like bumps and lines. These ridges dig into soft dirt and mud, which helps each tire grip the ground instead of slipping.

The tires are also very wide. A wide tire spreads out the weight of the tractor over a larger area, so the machine does not sink into the soil as easily.

Thanks to big, gripping tires, a tractor can pull a heavy cart or a plow across a muddy field.

## Questions

**1. How many enormous wheels does a tractor usually have at the back?**

_____

_____

**2. What do the thick ridges on the tires do?**

_____

_____

**3. What does a wide tire spread out over a larger area?**

_____

_____

**4. What can a tractor pull across a muddy field?**

_____

_____

**5. Why would a tractor with smooth, skinny tires struggle in mud?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

tractor: a strong farm machine that pulls heavy things
ridge: a thin raised line on a surface
grip: to hold onto a surface so you do not slip
plow: a farm tool that turns over the soil

## 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: Big Back Tires on the Tractor

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

### Circle: Big Back Tires on the Tractor

Easier · 77 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. Two.
2. They dig into the dirt and help the tire grip.
3. The weight of the tractor.
4. A heavy cart or a plow.
5. They would slip and sink because they would not grip or spread out the weight.

### Triangle: Big Back Tires on the Tractor

This passage · 102 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Two.
2. They dig into the dirt and help the tire grip.
3. The weight of the tractor.
4. A heavy cart or a plow.
5. It would slip and sink because it would not grip or spread out its weight.

### Square: Big Back Tires on the Tractor

Harder · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. Two.
2. They dig into soft dirt and mud so the tire can grip the ground.
3. The weight of the tractor.
4. A heavy cart or a plow.
5. It would slip and sink, because it would not grip the ground or spread out its weight.