Name: _____ Date: _____

Twist! A Sharpener Shaves a Pencil Point

Circle group

A pencil gets dull when you write a lot. The tip is round and soft. The lines look fat. A pencil sharpener can fix it.

A sharpener has a hole for the pencil. Inside is a tiny, sharp blade. Push the pencil in. Twist it around. The blade shaves off thin wood. It shaves a little lead too.

Curly bits fall into a tray. Pull out the pencil. The tip is thin and sharp. Now you can write thin lines.

Questions

1. What happens to a pencil tip when you write a lot?

_____

_____

2. What is inside the hole?

_____

_____

3. What do you do with the pencil in the hole?

_____

_____

4. Where do the curly bits go?

_____

_____

5. Why can you write thin lines after sharpening?

_____

_____

Words to know

dull: not sharp, with a round or worn tip
blade: the thin, sharp part of a tool that cuts
shave: to cut off a very thin layer
tray: a flat dish that catches things

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: _____

Twist! A Sharpener Shaves a Pencil Point

Triangle group

A pencil gets dull when you write a lot. The tip turns round and soft, and the lines look fat. A pencil sharpener can fix it.

A small sharpener has a hole for the pencil. Inside the hole is a tiny, sharp blade. You push the pencil in and twist it around. The blade shaves off a thin layer of wood. It shaves a little of the pencil lead too.

Out come curly bits that look like ribbons. They fall into a little tray. When you pull out the pencil, the tip is thin and sharp again. Now you can write neat, thin lines.

Questions

1. What happens to a pencil tip when you write a lot?

_____

_____

2. What is inside the hole of the sharpener?

_____

_____

3. What do you do with the pencil in the hole?

_____

_____

4. Where do the curly bits go?

_____

_____

5. Why do thin lines look neat after sharpening?

_____

_____

Words to know

dull: not sharp, with a round or worn tip
blade: the thin, sharp part of a tool that cuts
shave: to cut off a very thin layer

tray: a flat dish that catches things

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: _____

Twist! A Sharpener Shaves a Pencil Point

Square group

After you write for a long time, a pencil becomes dull. The tip turns round and soft, and the lines it makes look thick and fat. Fortunately, a pencil sharpener can fix the problem.

A small sharpener has a hole just big enough for a pencil. Inside the hole is a tiny, sharp blade. You push the pencil into the hole and twist it around and around. The blade shaves off a thin layer of wood, and it shaves away a little of the pencil lead as well.

Curly bits that look like ribbons come out and fall into a little tray. When you pull the pencil out, the tip is thin and sharp once again, so you can write neat, thin lines.

Questions

1. What happens to a pencil tip after a long time of writing?

_____

_____

2. What is inside the hole of a small sharpener?

_____

_____

3. How do you use the pencil in the sharpener?

_____

_____

4. Where do the curly bits fall?

_____

_____

5. Why can you write neat, thin lines after sharpening?

_____

_____

Words to know

dull: not sharp, with a round or worn tip
blade: the thin, sharp part of a tool that cuts
shave: to cut off a very thin layer

tray: a flat dish that catches things

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: Twist! A Sharpener Shaves a Pencil Point

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

Circle: Twist! A Sharpener Shaves a Pencil Point

Easier · 80 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. It gets dull and round.
2. A tiny, sharp blade.
3. Push it in and twist it.
4. Into a tray.
5. The blade made the tip thin and sharp.

Triangle: Twist! A Sharpener Shaves a Pencil Point

This passage · 104 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. It gets dull, round and soft.
2. A tiny, sharp blade.
3. Push it in and twist it around.
4. Into a little tray.
5. The blade made the tip thin and sharp again.

Square: Twist! A Sharpener Shaves a Pencil Point

Harder · 123 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. It becomes dull, round and soft.
2. A tiny, sharp blade.
3. Push it into the hole and twist it around and around.
4. Into a little tray.
5. The blade made the tip thin and sharp again.