Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Stars Seem to Wink

Circle group

At night, a star seems to wink. It twinkles!

But the star is not winking. A star is a big ball of hot gas. Its light is steady.

The light must go through the air near Earth. The air moves. It bends the light a bit.

So the light seems to shake. That is why a star twinkles.

Questions

1. What does a star seem to do?

_____

_____

2. What is a star?

_____

_____

3. What must the light go through?

_____

_____

4. Is the light of a star steady?

_____

_____

5. Why does the light seem to shake?

_____

_____

Words to know

twinkle: to shine with a quick flash again and again
steady: not changing or shaking
gas: a thing like air that is not a solid or a liquid
bend: to turn in a new way, not go straight

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: _____

Why Stars Seem to Wink

Triangle group

Look up at night. A star seems to wink at you. It twinkles!

But the star is not winking. A star is a big ball of hot gas. Its light is steady.

The light has to pass through the air around Earth. The air is always on the move. It bends the light a little, again and again.

So the light seems to shake and flash. That is why the star twinkles.

Questions

1. What does a star seem to do at night?

_____

_____

2. What is a star?

_____

_____

3. What does the light of a star have to pass through?

_____

_____

4. Is the star's light steady or shaky before it reaches the air?

_____

_____

5. Why does the star seem to flash?

_____

_____

Words to know

twinkle: to shine with a quick flash again and again
steady: not changing or shaking
gas: a thing like air that is not a solid or a liquid
bend: to turn in a new way, not go straight

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: _____

Why Stars Seem to Wink

Square group

When you gaze up at the night sky, a star often seems to wink at you. We say that it twinkles.

However, the star is not really winking. A star is an enormous ball of hot gas, and the light it gives off is steady.

Before it reaches your eyes, that light has to travel through the air around Earth. The air is constantly moving, and it bends the light slightly, again and again.

As a result, the light appears to shake and flash, and that is why the star seems to twinkle.

Questions

1. What does a star often seem to do at night?

_____

_____

2. What is a star, in this passage?

_____

_____

3. What must the light travel through before it reaches your eyes?

_____

_____

4. Is the light a star gives off steady or shaky?

_____

_____

5. Why does the light appear to shake and flash?

_____

_____

Words to know

twinkle: to shine with a quick flash again and again
steady: not changing or shaking
gas: a thing like air that is not a solid or a liquid
bend: to turn in a new way, not go straight

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: Why Stars Seem to Wink

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

Circle: Why Stars Seem to Wink

Easier · 58 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.7

1. It seems to wink or twinkle.
2. A big ball of hot gas.
3. The air near Earth.
4. Yes, it is steady.
5. The moving air bends it.

Triangle: Why Stars Seem to Wink

This passage · 72 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. It seems to wink or twinkle.
2. A big ball of hot gas.
3. The air around Earth.
4. It is steady.
5. The moving air bends its light again and again.

Square: Why Stars Seem to Wink

Harder · 93 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. It seems to wink, or twinkle.
2. An enormous ball of hot gas.
3. The air around Earth.
4. It is steady.
5. The moving air bends it slightly, again and again.