Name: _____ Date: _____

Writing with a Feather Pen

Circle group

Long ago, there were no pens like ours. People wrote with a feather. It was called a quill.

A big goose feather made a good quill. The writer cut the tip to a point. He dipped it in a pot of ink. He wrote a few words. Then he had to dip again.

Writing took a long time. Today, a pen has ink inside. We do not have to dip it.

Questions

1. What did people write with long ago?

_____

_____

2. Which bird gave a big feather for a quill?

_____

_____

3. What did the writer dip the quill in?

_____

_____

4. What did the writer have to do after a few words?

_____

_____

5. Why is a pen today easier to use?

_____

_____

Words to know

quill: a pen made from a big feather
feather: one of the soft parts that cover a bird
dip: to put something in a liquid for a moment
point: a sharp tip

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: _____

Writing with a Feather Pen

Triangle group

Long ago, there were no pens like ours. People wrote with a feather. It was called a quill.

A big feather from a goose made a good quill. The writer cut the tip into a point. Then he dipped the tip in a pot of ink. He wrote a few words. Then he had to dip again.

Writing took a long time. A drop of ink might fall on the paper. Oops! Today, a pen has its own ink inside. We can write for a long time without dipping at all.

Questions

1. What did people write with long ago?

_____

_____

2. Which bird gave a big feather for a quill?

_____

_____

3. What did the writer dip the quill in?

_____

_____

4. What can happen when you dip a quill?

_____

_____

5. Why is a pen today easier to use?

_____

_____

Words to know

quill: a pen made from a big feather
feather: one of the soft parts that cover a bird
dip: to put something in a liquid for a moment
point: a sharp tip

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: _____

Writing with a Feather Pen

Square group

Long ago, people did not have pens like the ones we use today. Instead, they wrote with a large feather that was called a quill.

A big feather from a goose made an excellent quill. The writer carefully trimmed the tip into a sharp point and dipped it into a small pot of ink. He could write only a few words before he needed to dip it again.

Writing this way took a long time, and a drop of ink might fall onto the paper at any moment. Oops! A pen today holds its own ink inside, so we can write for a long while without dipping at all.

Questions

1. What did people use for writing long ago?

_____

_____

2. Which bird's feather made an excellent quill?

_____

_____

3. What did the writer dip the quill into?

_____

_____

4. What might happen while a person writes with a quill?

_____

_____

5. Why is a pen today easier to use than a quill?

_____

_____

Words to know

quill: a pen made from a big feather

feather: one of the soft parts that cover a bird

dip: to put something in a liquid for a moment
point: a sharp tip

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: Writing with a Feather Pen

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

Circle: Writing with a Feather Pen

Easier · 71 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. A feather called a quill.
2. A goose.
3. A pot of ink.
4. Dip the quill again.
5. It has ink inside, so we do not have to dip it.

Triangle: Writing with a Feather Pen

This passage · 91 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. A feather called a quill.
2. A goose.
3. A pot of ink.
4. A drop of ink might fall on the paper.
5. It has ink inside, so you do not have to keep dipping it.

Square: Writing with a Feather Pen

Harder · 109 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.5

1. A large feather called a quill.
2. A goose.
3. A small pot of ink.
4. A drop of ink might fall onto the paper.
5. It holds its own ink, so you do not need to keep dipping it.