Name: _____ Date: _____

A Pan of Coals for a Cold Bed

Circle group

Long ago, houses had no furnaces. A fire in the fireplace gave the heat. At night the fire got low. The bedrooms were cold.

People had a way to warm their beds. They used a bed warming pan. It was a round metal pan. It had a lid and a long wooden handle.

A grown-up put hot coals in the pan. Then the lid went on. The grown-up slid the pan between the sheets. The sheets got warm.

The pan came out before anyone got in. The long handle kept hands away from the coals.

Questions

1. What gave the heat in a house long ago?

_____

_____

2. What did a bed warming pan look like?

_____

_____

3. What went inside the pan?

_____

_____

4. When did the pan come out of the bed?

_____

_____

5. Why did the pan have a long handle?

_____

_____

Words to know

furnaces: big machines that heat a whole house
coals: pieces of burning wood or rock that glow with heat
handle: the part you hold in your hand

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 Pan of Coals for a Cold Bed

Triangle group

Long ago, houses had no furnaces. A fire in the fireplace was the main heat. At night the fire died down, and the bedrooms got very cold.

People had a clever way to warm their beds. They used a bed warming pan. It was a round metal pan with a lid and a long wooden handle.

First, a grown-up filled the pan with hot coals from the fire. Then the lid went on. The grown-up slid the pan between the sheets and moved it back and forth. The sheets got warm and toasty.

Before anyone climbed in, the pan was taken out. The long handle kept hands far from the hot coals. Then the bed was ready for sleeping.

Questions

1. What was the main heat in a house long ago?

_____

_____

2. What did a bed warming pan look like?

_____

_____

3. What went inside the pan?

_____

_____

4. When was the pan taken out of the bed?

_____

_____

5. Why did the pan have a long handle?

_____

_____

Words to know

furnaces: big machines that heat a whole house
coals: pieces of burning wood or rock that glow with heat
handle: the part you hold in your hand
toasty: nice and warm

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 Pan of Coals for a Cold Bed

Square group

Long ago, houses did not have furnaces, so the fire in the fireplace was the main source of heat. By nighttime the fire had died down, and the bedrooms became extremely cold.

People came up with a clever way to warm their beds, using a tool called a bed warming pan. It was a round metal pan with a hinged lid and a long wooden handle.

First, a grown-up filled the pan with glowing coals taken from the fire and closed the lid. Then the grown-up slid the pan between the sheets and moved it back and forth until the bedding was warm and toasty.

Before anyone climbed in, the pan was removed. Its long handle kept hands at a safe distance from the hot coals, and the bed was finally ready for sleeping.

Questions

1. What was the main source of heat in a house long ago?

_____

_____

2. What did a bed warming pan look like?

_____

_____

3. What was put inside the pan?

_____

_____

4. When was the pan removed from the bed?

_____

_____

5. Why did the pan have such a long handle?

_____

_____

Words to know

furnaces: big machines that heat a whole house
coals: pieces of burning wood or rock that glow with heat
handle: the part you hold in your hand
toasty: nice and warm

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 Pan of Coals for a Cold Bed

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

Circle: A Pan of Coals for a Cold Bed

Easier · 97 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. A fire in the fireplace.
2. A round metal pan with a lid and a long handle.
3. Hot coals.
4. Before anyone got in.
5. It kept hands away from the hot coals.

Triangle: A Pan of Coals for a Cold Bed

This passage · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. A fire in the fireplace.
2. A round metal pan with a lid and a long wooden handle.
3. Hot coals from the fire.
4. Before anyone climbed in.
5. It kept hands far from the hot coals.

Square: A Pan of Coals for a Cold Bed

Harder · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.8

1. The fire in the fireplace.
2. A round metal pan with a hinged lid and a long wooden handle.
3. Glowing coals taken from the fire.
4. Before anyone climbed in.
5. It kept hands at a safe distance from the hot coals.