Name: _____ Date: _____

A Pigeon with a Note on Its Leg

Circle group

Before phones and email, how did you send a message far away? One way was to use a pigeon.

Pigeons are good at finding their way home. A person kept pigeons in a loft. To send a message, a person took a pigeon far away in a basket.

The sender wrote a tiny note. The note was tied gently to the bird's leg. Then the pigeon was let go. It flew back to its loft.

There, a person found the note and read it. A pigeon flies faster than a person walks. These birds were called carrier pigeons.

Questions

1. What are pigeons good at?

_____

_____

2. Where was the note tied?

_____

_____

3. Where did the pigeon fly when it was let go?

_____

_____

4. What were these birds called?

_____

_____

5. Why did a person take the pigeon away from home first?

_____

_____

Words to know

message: words you send to another person
loft: a small house or room where pigeons live
carrier: something that carries things from place to place

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 Pigeon with a Note on Its Leg

Triangle group

Before phones and email, how could you send a message far away? One way was to use a pigeon.

Pigeons are very good at finding their way home. A person kept pigeons in a loft. To send a message, a person took a pigeon far away in a basket.

The sender wrote a tiny note on thin paper. The note was tied gently to the bird's leg. Then the pigeon was let go. It flew straight back to its loft.

There, another person found the note and read it. A pigeon flies fast, so news came quickly. These birds were called carrier pigeons.

Questions

1. What are pigeons very good at?

_____

_____

2. Where was the note fastened?

_____

_____

3. Where did the pigeon fly after it was let go?

_____

_____

4. What were these birds called?

_____

_____

5. Why did a person carry the pigeon away from home first?

_____

_____

Words to know

message: words you send to another person
loft: a small house or room where pigeons live
carrier: something that carries things from place to place

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 Pigeon with a Note on Its Leg

Square group

Before phones and email existed, people wondered how they could send a message across a long distance. One solution was to use a pigeon.

Pigeons are remarkably good at finding their way home. A person kept pigeons in a home loft, and when it was time to send a message, someone carried a pigeon far away from the loft in a basket.

The sender wrote a tiny note on a thin piece of paper and fastened it gently to the bird's leg. Then the pigeon was released, and it flew straight back to its loft.

There, another person found the note and read it. Because a pigeon can fly much faster than a person can walk, news arrived quickly. These birds were known as carrier pigeons.

Questions

1. What are pigeons remarkably good at?

_____

_____

2. Where was the tiny note fastened?

_____

_____

3. Where did the pigeon fly after it was released?

_____

_____

4. What were these birds known as?

_____

_____

5. Why did someone carry the pigeon far from the loft before sending it?

_____

_____

Words to know

message: words you send to another person
loft: a small house or room where pigeons live
fastened: tied or attached so it stays on
carrier: something that carries things from place to place

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 Pigeon with a Note on Its Leg

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

Circle: A Pigeon with a Note on Its Leg

Easier · 98 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Finding their way home.
2. To the bird's leg.
3. Back to its loft.
4. Carrier pigeons.
5. The pigeon flies back home, so it had to start far away.

Triangle: A Pigeon with a Note on Its Leg

This passage · 103 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. Finding their way home.
2. To the bird's leg.
3. Back to its loft.
4. Carrier pigeons.
5. The pigeon only flies back home, so it had to start far away.

Square: A Pigeon with a Note on Its Leg

Harder · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. Finding their way home.
2. To the bird's leg.
3. Straight back to its loft.
4. Carrier pigeons.
5. The pigeon flies back to its home loft, so it had to start far away.