Name: _____ Date: _____

A Rubber Band Stretches and Snaps Back

Circle group

A rubber band is a small loop. It can stretch. Pull it, and it gets long. Let go, and it snaps back.

Why? Rubber has tiny strands. They are long. When you do not pull, the strands are bunched up. When you pull, they straighten out. They want to bunch up again. So they pull back.

A rubber band is very useful. It can hold papers together. It can keep a ponytail in place. It can hold pencils tight.

A rubber band has limits. If you pull too far, it can break. If it sits in the hot sun, it can get dry and weak.

Questions

1. What does a rubber band do when you let go?

_____

_____

2. What are the strands like when they are not pulled?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the strands when you pull?

_____

_____

4. What is one job a rubber band can do?

_____

_____

5. What can the hot sun do to a rubber band?

_____

_____

6. Why does a stretched band pull on your fingers?

_____

_____

Words to know

stretch: to pull something so it gets longer
loop: a shape like a circle or ring
strands: long, thin pieces, like threads
bunched: gathered close together in a clump
limits: the most that something can do

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 Rubber Band Stretches and Snaps Back

Triangle group

A rubber band is a small loop that can stretch. Pull it, and it gets long and thin. Let go, and it snaps back to its first size.

Why does it do that? Rubber is made of very long, tiny strands. When the strands are not pulled, they sit all bunched up. When you stretch the band, the strands straighten out. They want to bunch up again, so they pull back as hard as they can.

That pulling back is what makes a rubber band so useful. It can hold a stack of papers together. It can keep a ponytail in place. It can even keep a bundle of pencils tight.

A rubber band does have limits. If you pull it too far, it can break. If it sits in the hot sun for a long time, it can become dry and weak.

Questions

1. What does a rubber band do when you let go?

_____

_____

2. What are the strands in rubber like when they are not pulled?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the strands when you stretch the band?

_____

_____

4. What is one job a rubber band can do?

_____

_____

5. What can happen if a rubber band sits in the hot sun for a long time?

_____

_____

6. Why does a stretched rubber band feel like it is pulling on your fingers?

_____

_____

Words to know

stretch: to pull something so it gets longer
loop: a shape like a circle or ring
strands: long, thin pieces, like threads
bunched: gathered close together in a clump
limits: the most that something can do

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 Rubber Band Stretches and Snaps Back

Square group

A rubber band is a small loop of material that is able to stretch. When you pull it, it becomes long and thin, and when you let go, it quickly snaps back to the size it started with.

Why does it behave this way? Rubber is made of extremely long, tiny strands. While nobody is pulling on them, the strands sit all bunched together. Once you stretch the band, the strands are forced to straighten out. They would rather bunch up again, so they pull back with all of their strength.

That pulling back is exactly what makes a rubber band so useful. It can hold a stack of papers together, keep a ponytail in place, or keep a whole bundle of pencils tight.

Even so, a rubber band has limits. If you pull it much too far, it can break. If it sits in the hot sun for a long time, it can turn dry and weak.

Questions

1. What does a rubber band do when you let go of it?

_____

_____

2. What are the strands in rubber like while nobody is pulling them?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the strands once you stretch the band?

_____

_____

4. What is one job that a rubber band can do?

_____

_____

5. What can happen to a rubber band that sits in the hot sun for a long time?

_____

_____

6. Why does a stretched rubber band seem to pull on your fingers?

_____

_____

Words to know

stretch: to pull something so it gets longer
loop: a shape like a circle or ring
strands: long, thin pieces, like threads
bunched: gathered close together in a clump
limits: the most that something can do

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 Rubber Band Stretches and Snaps Back

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

Circle: A Rubber Band Stretches and Snaps Back

Easier · 105 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. It snaps back.
2. They are bunched up.
3. They straighten out.
4. It can hold papers, keep a ponytail, or hold pencils.
5. It can make it dry and weak.
6. The strands want to bunch up again.

Triangle: A Rubber Band Stretches and Snaps Back

This passage · 143 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. It snaps back to its first size.
2. They are bunched up.
3. They straighten out.
4. It can hold papers together, keep a ponytail in place, or bundle pencils.
5. It can become dry and weak.
6. The strands want to bunch up again, so they pull back.

Square: A Rubber Band Stretches and Snaps Back

Harder · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. It snaps back to the size it started with.
2. They are bunched together.
3. They are forced to straighten out.
4. It can hold papers together, keep a ponytail in place, or bundle pencils.
5. It can turn dry and weak.
6. The strands would rather bunch up again, so they pull back.