Name: _____ Date: _____

A Slate and a Rag for School

Circle group

Long ago, many kids had no paper at school. Paper was hard to get. So each kid had a slate. A slate is a thin gray stone in a wooden frame.

Kids wrote on the slate with chalk. When it was full, they rubbed it clean with a rag. Then they used it again.

A slate was good for practice. A kid could add numbers. Then the kid could wipe it and try again.

Now most kids use paper. Some rooms keep a small slate on the wall.

Questions

1. What is a slate?

_____

_____

2. What did kids write with?

_____

_____

3. How did kids clean a full slate?

_____

_____

4. Why was a slate good for practice?

_____

_____

5. Why did kids use slates and not paper?

_____

_____

Words to know

slate: a thin piece of gray stone used to write on
frame: a border that holds something in place
chalk: a soft white stick that leaves marks

rag: a piece of old cloth for wiping
practice: doing something again and again to get better

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 Slate and a Rag for School

Triangle group

Long ago, many children did not have paper at school. Paper was hard to get. So each child had a slate. A slate is a thin piece of gray stone in a wooden frame.

Children wrote on the slate with a stick of chalk. When the slate was full, they rubbed it clean with a rag. Then they could use it again.

A slate was good for practice. A child could add numbers or spell a word. Then the child could wipe it away and try again. The teacher could look at the work in a moment, too.

Today most children use paper and pencils. But some classrooms still keep a small slate on the wall.

Questions

1. What is a slate?

_____

_____

2. What did children write with?

_____

_____

3. How did children clean a full slate?

_____

_____

4. Why was a slate good for practice?

_____

_____

5. Why did children use slates instead of paper?

_____

_____

Words to know

slate: a thin piece of gray stone used to write on
frame: a border that holds something in place
chalk: a soft white stick that leaves marks
rag: a piece of old cloth for wiping
practice: doing something again and again to get better

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 Slate and a Rag for School

Square group

Long ago, many children did not have paper at school, because paper was hard to get and cost a good deal. Instead, each child was given a slate, which is a thin piece of gray stone set inside a wooden frame.

Children wrote on the slate with a stick of chalk. Whenever the slate became full, they rubbed it clean with a rag, and then they were able to use it over and over again.

A slate was especially good for practice. A child could add up numbers or spell a difficult word, then wipe the answer away and try once more. The teacher could also look over the work in a moment.

Today most children use paper and pencils, although a few classrooms still keep a small slate hanging on the wall.

Questions

1. What is a slate?

_____

_____

2. What did children write on the slate with?

_____

_____

3. How did children clean a slate that was full?

_____

_____

4. Why was a slate especially good for practice?

_____

_____

5. Why were slates given to children instead of paper?

_____

_____

Words to know

slate: a thin piece of gray stone used to write on
frame: a border that holds something in place
chalk: a soft white stick that leaves marks
rag: a piece of old cloth for wiping
practice: doing something again and again to get better

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 Slate and a Rag for School

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

Circle: A Slate and a Rag for School

Easier · 88 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. A thin gray stone in a wooden frame.
2. Chalk.
3. They rubbed it with a rag.
4. A kid could wipe it and try again.
5. Paper was hard to get, and a slate could be used again.

Triangle: A Slate and a Rag for School

This passage · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. A thin piece of gray stone in a wooden frame.
2. A stick of chalk.
3. They rubbed it clean with a rag.
4. A child could wipe it away and try again.
5. Paper was hard to get, and a slate could be used again.

Square: A Slate and a Rag for School

Harder · 133 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. A thin piece of gray stone set inside a wooden frame.
2. A stick of chalk.
3. They rubbed it clean with a rag.
4. A child could wipe the answer away and try once more.
5. Paper was hard to get, and a slate could be used over and over.