Name: _____ Date: _____

A Small Boat Guides a Giant Ship

Circle group

A huge ship sails the sea. The captain knows how to steer it. But the captain may not know the harbor. The water can be narrow. It can be shallow too.

So a harbor pilot helps. The pilot knows one harbor well. A small boat takes the pilot to the ship. The pilot climbs a ladder up the side. The pilot is trained to do this safely.

On the ship, the pilot goes to the captain. The pilot says where to turn and how fast to go. Together they guide the ship past rocks and sand.

The ship ties up at the dock. The pilot climbs down. A small boat takes the pilot home.

Questions

1. Why does a ship need a harbor pilot?

_____

_____

2. How does the pilot get to the ship?

_____

_____

3. What does the pilot tell the captain?

_____

_____

4. What does the pilot do when the ship is tied up?

_____

_____

5. Why must the pilot know one harbor well?

_____

_____

Words to know

harbor: a safe place by the shore where ships stop
pilot: a person who guides a ship or plane
narrow: not wide

shallow: not deep

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 Small Boat Guides a Giant Ship

Triangle group

A huge ship sails across the ocean. It has a captain who knows how to steer it. But the captain may never have seen the harbor ahead. The water there can be narrow and shallow in places.

So a harbor pilot comes to help. The pilot is a worker who knows one harbor very well. A small boat carries the pilot out to the ship. Then the pilot climbs up a ladder on the side of the ship. This is a hard climb, and the pilot is trained to do it safely.

On the ship, the pilot goes to the front room where the captain stands. The pilot tells the captain where to turn and how fast to go. Together they guide the ship past rocks and sandy spots.

When the ship is safely tied up at the dock, the pilot climbs down. A small boat takes the pilot home to wait for the next ship.

Questions

1. Why does a ship need a harbor pilot?

_____

_____

2. How does the pilot get out to the ship?

_____

_____

3. What does the pilot tell the captain?

_____

_____

4. What does the pilot do when the ship is tied up at the dock?

_____

_____

5. Why does the pilot need to know one harbor very well?

_____

_____

Words to know

harbor: a safe place by the shore where ships stop
pilot: a person who guides a ship or plane
narrow: not wide
shallow: not deep

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 Small Boat Guides a Giant Ship

Square group

An enormous ship sails across the ocean, and its captain knows exactly how to steer it. However, the captain may never have visited the harbor ahead, where the water can be narrow and shallow in places.

For that reason, a harbor pilot comes aboard to help. The pilot is a worker who knows a single harbor extremely well. A small boat carries the pilot out to the ship, and then the pilot climbs a ladder up the ship's side. The climb is difficult, but pilots are trained to do it safely.

Once on board, the pilot joins the captain at the front of the ship and explains where to turn and how fast to travel. Together, they guide the ship past rocks and sandy spots.

After the ship is safely tied up at the dock, the pilot climbs back down. A small boat then carries the pilot home to wait for the next ship.

Questions

1. Why does a ship need a harbor pilot?

_____

_____

2. How does the pilot reach the ship?

_____

_____

3. What does the pilot explain to the captain?

_____

_____

4. What does the pilot do after the ship is tied up at the dock?

_____

_____

5. Why does the pilot need to know a single harbor extremely well?

_____

_____

Words to know

harbor: a safe place by the shore where ships stop
pilot: a person who guides a ship or plane
narrow: not wide
shallow: not deep

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 Small Boat Guides a Giant Ship

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

Circle: A Small Boat Guides a Giant Ship

Easier · 114 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. The captain may not know the harbor, and the water can be narrow and shallow.
2. A small boat takes the pilot, who climbs a ladder.
3. Where to turn and how fast to go.
4. The pilot climbs down and goes home on a small boat.
5. The pilot can show the ship where the rocks and shallow spots are.

Triangle: A Small Boat Guides a Giant Ship

This passage · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. The captain may not know the harbor, and the water can be narrow and shallow.
2. A small boat carries the pilot, who then climbs a ladder.
3. Where to turn and how fast to go.
4. The pilot climbs down and goes home on a small boat.
5. He or she can show the ship where the rocks and shallow spots are.

Square: A Small Boat Guides a Giant Ship

Harder · 154 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. The captain may never have visited the harbor, and the water can be narrow and shallow.
2. A small boat carries the pilot out, and then the pilot climbs a ladder.
3. Where to turn and how fast to travel.
4. The pilot climbs down and rides a small boat home.
5. The pilot can show the ship where the rocks and shallow spots are.