Name: _____ Date: _____

Buttoned Boots and the First Zipper

Circle group

Long ago, there were no zippers. People used buttons, hooks, and laces. Some boots had a long row of tiny buttons. It took a long time to do them all.

People used a button hook. It was a little hook on a handle. It pulled each button through its hole.

Then inventors made a new fastener. More than one hundred years ago, the first zippers came. They had two rows of small metal teeth. A slider moved up, and the teeth locked. It moved down, and they came apart.

Zippers were first on boots. Later they came to coats and bags.

Questions

1. What did people use before zippers?

_____

_____

2. What did a button hook do?

_____

_____

3. What did the first zippers have?

_____

_____

4. What happened when the slider moved up?

_____

_____

5. Why was a zipper better than a row of buttons?

_____

_____

Words to know

laces: strings that tie a shoe or boot closed
inventors: people who think up new things
slider: the small part that moves along a zipper
teeth: the little points along a zipper that lock together

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: _____

Buttoned Boots and the First Zipper

Triangle group

Long ago, there were no zippers. People fastened their clothes with buttons, hooks, and laces. Some boots had a long row of tiny buttons up the side. It took a long time to do them all.

People used a small tool called a button hook. It was a little hook on a handle. It pulled each button through its hole, one by one.

Then inventors made a new kind of fastener. More than one hundred years ago, the first zippers appeared. They had two rows of small metal teeth. A slider moved up and the teeth locked together. When the slider moved down, they came apart.

At first, zippers were used on boots. Later, they came to coats, pants, and bags.

Questions

1. What did people use before zippers?

_____

_____

2. What did a button hook do?

_____

_____

3. What did the first zippers have?

_____

_____

4. What did the slider do when it moved up?

_____

_____

5. Why was a zipper better than a long row of buttons?

_____

_____

Words to know

fastened: closed or held shut
laces: strings that tie a shoe or boot closed
inventors: people who think up new things
slider: the small part that moves along a zipper
teeth: the little points along a zipper that lock together

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: _____

Buttoned Boots and the First Zipper

Square group

Long ago, there were no zippers at all. People fastened their clothes with buttons, hooks, and laces, and some boots had a long row of tiny buttons running up the side. Doing up every single one took a very long time.

To help, people used a small tool called a button hook, which was a little hook attached to a handle. It pulled each button through its hole, one after another.

Eventually, inventors designed a completely new kind of fastener. More than one hundred years ago, the first zippers appeared. They consisted of two rows of small metal teeth, and a slider that moved up locked the teeth together while moving it down made them come apart.

At first, zippers were mostly used on boots, but later they spread to coats, pants, and bags.

Questions

1. What did people use to fasten clothes before zippers?

_____

_____

2. What did a button hook do?

_____

_____

3. What did the first zippers consist of?

_____

_____

4. What happened when the slider moved up?

_____

_____

5. Why was a zipper an improvement over a long row of buttons?

_____

_____

Words to know

fastened: closed or held shut
laces: strings that tie a shoe or boot closed
inventors: people who think up new things
slider: the small part that moves along a zipper
teeth: the little points along a zipper that lock together

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: Buttoned Boots and the First Zipper

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

Circle: Buttoned Boots and the First Zipper

Easier · 101 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. Buttons, hooks, and laces.
2. It pulled each button through its hole.
3. Two rows of metal teeth and a slider.
4. The teeth locked together.
5. It was much faster to close all at once.

Triangle: Buttoned Boots and the First Zipper

This passage · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Buttons, hooks, and laces.
2. It pulled each button through its hole.
3. Two rows of small metal teeth and a slider.
4. The teeth locked together.
5. It was much faster to close all at once.

Square: Buttoned Boots and the First Zipper

Harder · 134 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.4

1. Buttons, hooks, and laces.
2. It pulled each button through its hole.
3. Two rows of small metal teeth and a slider.
4. The teeth locked together.
5. It could close everything at once, which saved a lot of time.