Name: _____ Date: _____

Castle Drawbridges and River Drawbridges

Circle group

A drawbridge is a bridge that moves. Long ago, many castles had one. It crossed a deep ditch of water called a moat. People pulled it up with chains. Then the gate was blocked. At night, a castle could lift its bridge to keep strangers out.

Today, drawbridges cross rivers. They do not keep anyone out. They help tall boats. The bridge sits low, so cars reach it easily. When a boat with a tall top comes, the bridge opens. The boat sails through.

The two kinds look different. But they share one idea. Each bridge is a road at one time. It is an open space at another time.

Questions

1. What is a drawbridge?

_____

_____

2. What was a castle drawbridge built over?

_____

_____

3. What did people use to pull it up?

_____

_____

4. Why did a castle lift its bridge at night?

_____

_____

5. What do river drawbridges let pass?

_____

_____

6. Why does a river bridge sit low and open only for tall boats?

_____

_____

Words to know

drawbridge: a bridge that can lift up to let boats pass
chains: metal rings linked together to pull or hold
moat: a deep ditch of water around a castle
strangers: people you do not know
tall: high from the bottom to the top

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: _____

Castle Drawbridges and River Drawbridges

Triangle group

A drawbridge is a bridge that can move. Long ago, many castles had one. It stretched over a deep ditch of water called a moat. People pulled it up with chains, and then the gate was blocked. At night, a castle could lift its bridge to keep strangers out.

Today, you can see drawbridges over rivers. They are not for keeping anyone out. They are made for tall boats. The bridge sits low, so it is easy for cars to reach. When a boat with a tall top comes, the bridge opens, and the boat sails through.

The two kinds look different, but they share one idea. Each bridge can be a road at one time and an open space at another time.

Questions

1. What is a drawbridge?

_____

_____

2. What was a castle drawbridge built over?

_____

_____

3. What did people use to pull up a castle drawbridge?

_____

_____

4. Why did a castle lift its bridge at night?

_____

_____

5. What does a river drawbridge let pass underneath?

_____

_____

6. Why would a river town want a bridge that opens instead of a very high one?

_____

_____

Words to know

drawbridge: a bridge that can lift up to let boats pass
chains: metal rings linked together to pull or hold
moat: a deep ditch of water around a castle
strangers: people you do not know
tall: high from the bottom to the top

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: _____

Castle Drawbridges and River Drawbridges

Square group

Cars need a road to cross a river, but boats need the river to stay open so that they can pass through. A drawbridge is built to take care of both of those jobs.

Most of the time, a drawbridge lies flat like any other bridge, and cars and trucks drive across it. When a tall boat comes near, a bell rings and lights begin to flash. Gates come down across the road to stop the cars.

Then the bridge opens. Some drawbridges lift up in the middle, like two enormous doors swinging apart. Strong machines with gears or heavy weights do the lifting, and the boat sails through the gap.

After the boat has gone by, the bridge comes back down. The gates rise, and the cars are able to cross once more.

A drawbridge is especially useful in a place with a great many boats and a great many cars. It makes sure that everyone gets a turn.

Questions

1. What two jobs does a drawbridge take care of?

_____

_____

2. What happens before the bridge opens?

_____

_____

3. What do the gates do?

_____

_____

4. What does the bridge look like when it opens?

_____

_____

5. What lifts a drawbridge?

_____

6. Why must the cars wait when a tall boat comes by?

Words to know

drawbridge: a bridge that can lift up to let boats pass
tall: high from the bottom to the top

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: Castle Drawbridges and River Drawbridges

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

Circle: Castle Drawbridges and River Drawbridges

Easier · 110 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. A bridge that moves.
2. A deep ditch of water called a moat.
3. Chains.
4. To keep strangers out.
5. Tall boats.
6. Cars reach it easily, and it opens only when a boat needs room.

Triangle: Castle Drawbridges and River Drawbridges

This passage · 123 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. A bridge that can lift up or open.
2. A deep ditch of water called a moat.
3. Chains.
4. To block the gate and keep strangers out.
5. Tall boats.
6. An opening bridge can stay low for cars, and it lifts only when a tall boat needs room.

Square: Castle Drawbridges and River Drawbridges

Harder · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. It lets cars cross a river and lets boats pass through.
2. A bell rings, lights flash, and gates come down across the road.
3. They stop the cars.
4. Two parts lift up in the middle, like enormous doors swinging apart.
5. Strong machines with gears or heavy weights.
6. The bridge is open, so the road has a gap and cars cannot cross.