Name: _____ Date: _____

Escalator Stairs That Never Stop

Circle group

An escalator is a set of stairs that moves. You step on at the bottom. You ride up to the next floor. You do not climb.

How does it work? The steps are joined in one long loop, like a chain. A strong motor turns the loop. The steps you see going up are one side of the loop. The other steps ride down below, out of sight.

At the bottom, each step is flat. It is easy to step on. As it rises, it makes a stair. At the top, it goes flat and slides under the floor.

A black handrail moves at the same speed as the steps. Hold on to it. Stand still. Keep your shoes away from the sides.

Questions

1. What is an escalator?

_____

_____

2. What turns the loop of steps?

_____

_____

3. Where do the steps go after they slide under the floor at the top?

_____

_____

4. What does a step look like at the bottom?

_____

_____

5. How fast does the handrail move?

_____

_____

6. Why can you stand still on an escalator?

_____

_____

Words to know

escalator: a moving set of stairs that carries people up or down
motor: a machine part that makes things turn
loop: a chain or path that goes around in a circle
handrail: a bar to hold on to while you ride or climb

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: _____

Escalator Stairs That Never Stop

Triangle group

An escalator is a set of stairs that moves. You step on at the bottom and ride up to the next floor. You do not have to climb at all.

How does it work? The steps are joined together in one long loop, like a chain. A strong motor turns the loop around and around. The steps you see going up are just one side of the loop. Below them, the other steps ride back down, out of sight.

At the bottom, each step comes out flat, so it is easy to step on. As it rises, it forms a stair. At the top, it flattens out again and slides away under the floor.

There is also a black handrail that moves along at the same speed as the steps. Hold on to it, and stand still on the step. Keep your shoes away from the sides.

Questions

1. What is an escalator?

_____

_____

2. What turns the loop of steps?

_____

_____

3. Where do the steps go after they slide under the floor at the top?

_____

_____

4. What does a step look like when it first comes out at the bottom?

_____

_____

5. How fast does the handrail move?

_____

_____

6. Why is it safe to stand still on an escalator step?

_____

_____

Words to know

escalator: a moving set of stairs that carries people up or down
motor: a machine part that makes things turn
loop: a chain or path that goes around in a circle
handrail: a bar to hold on to while you ride or climb
flattens: becomes flat like a floor

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: _____

Escalator Stairs That Never Stop

Square group

An escalator is a set of stairs that moves all by itself. You step on at the bottom, and it carries you up to the next floor, so you never have to climb at all.

How does it work? The steps are linked together in one long loop, much like the links of a chain. A strong motor turns the loop around and around. The steps that you see traveling upward are only one side of the loop. Underneath them, the other steps ride back down, hidden from view.

At the bottom, each step comes out flat, which makes it easy to step onto. As it rises, it turns into a stair. When it reaches the top, it flattens out again and slides away beneath the floor.

A black handrail also moves along at exactly the same speed as the steps. Hold on to it, stand still on your step, and keep your shoes away from the sides.

Questions

1. What is an escalator?

_____

_____

2. What turns the loop of steps around and around?

_____

_____

3. Where do the steps go after they slide beneath the floor at the top?

_____

_____

4. What does a step look like when it first comes out at the bottom?

_____

_____

5. How fast does the handrail travel?

_____

_____

6. Why is it safe to stand still on an escalator step?

_____

_____

Words to know

escalator: a moving set of stairs that carries people up or down
motor: a machine part that makes things turn
loop: a chain or path that goes around in a circle
handrail: a bar to hold on to while you ride or climb
flattens: becomes flat like a floor

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: Escalator Stairs That Never Stop

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

Circle: Escalator Stairs That Never Stop

Easier · 123 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. A set of stairs that moves.
2. A strong motor.
3. They ride down below, out of sight.
4. It is flat.
5. At the same speed as the steps.
6. The steps carry you up, so you do not climb.

Triangle: Escalator Stairs That Never Stop

This passage · 147 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. A set of stairs that moves.
2. A strong motor.
3. They ride back down below, out of sight.
4. It is flat.
5. At the same speed as the steps.
6. The steps carry you up, so you do not have to climb.

Square: Escalator Stairs That Never Stop

Harder · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. A set of stairs that moves by itself.
2. A strong motor.
3. They ride back down, hidden from view.
4. It is flat, which makes it easy to step onto.
5. At exactly the same speed as the steps.
6. The steps carry you upward, so you never have to climb.