Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding an Island by Stars and Waves

Circle group

Long ago, sailors crossed the huge Pacific Ocean in big canoes. They had no maps. They had no compass. How did they find tiny islands?

They used clues from nature. At night, they watched the stars. A star rises in one place and sets in another. This showed them the way.

In the day, they felt the waves. The canoe rocked in a pattern. That told a sailor which way to steer.

They watched birds too. Some birds fly out to sea in the morning. At night they fly back to land. So birds showed that an island was close.

These sailors were wayfinders.

Questions

1. What did the wayfinders cross in their canoes?

_____

_____

2. What did the sailors watch at night?

_____

_____

3. How did a sailor know which way to steer?

_____

_____

4. What are the sailors called?

_____

_____

5. Why would birds flying back at night help a sailor?

_____

_____

Words to know

compass: a tool with a needle that shows which way is north
clues: small signs that help you figure something out
steer: to make a boat go the way you want
wayfinders: sailors who find their way using stars, waves, and birds

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: _____

Finding an Island by Stars and Waves

Triangle group

Long ago, sailors crossed the huge Pacific Ocean in big canoes. They had no maps. They had no compass. How did they find tiny islands?

They used clues from nature. At night, they watched the stars. A star rises in one spot and sets in another. This helped them keep going the right way.

In the day, they felt the waves. Waves can roll in a pattern. A sailor could feel the way the canoe rocked and know which way to steer.

They also watched birds. Some birds fly out to sea in the morning to find fish. At night, they fly back to land. So birds could point to an island that was close.

These sailors were called wayfinders. They had to learn every clue by heart.

Questions

1. What did the wayfinders cross in their canoes?

_____

_____

2. What did the sailors watch at night?

_____

_____

3. How did a sailor feel which way to steer?

_____

_____

4. What are the sailors called?

_____

_____

5. Why would birds flying back at night help a sailor?

_____

_____

Words to know

compass: a tool with a needle that shows which way is north
clues: small signs that help you figure something out
steer: to make a boat go the way you want
wayfinders: sailors who find their way using stars, waves, and birds

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: _____

Finding an Island by Stars and Waves

Square group

Long ago, skilled sailors crossed the enormous Pacific Ocean in large canoes. They carried no maps and no compass, so how did they ever manage to find tiny islands in all that water?

They relied on clues from nature. At night, they studied the stars, because each star rises in one spot on the horizon and sets in another, which helped them hold a steady course.

During the day, they paid attention to the waves. Waves can travel in a pattern, and a sailor could feel the way the canoe rocked and know which direction to steer.

They also watched for birds. Some birds fly out to sea in the morning to find fish and return to land at night, so a bird heading home could point to an island nearby.

These sailors were called wayfinders, and they had to learn every one of these clues by heart.

Questions

1. What did the wayfinders cross in their large canoes?

_____

_____

2. What did the sailors study at night?

_____

_____

3. How could a sailor tell which direction to steer during the day?

_____

_____

4. What were these sailors called?

_____

_____

5. Why would a bird heading home at night help a sailor?

_____

_____

Words to know

compass: a tool with a needle that shows which way is north
clues: small signs that help you figure something out
steer: to make a boat go the way you want
wayfinders: sailors who find their way using stars, waves, and birds

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: Finding an Island by Stars and Waves

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

Circle: Finding an Island by Stars and Waves

Easier · 104 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. The Pacific Ocean.
2. The stars.
3. By feeling how the canoe rocked in the waves.
4. Wayfinders.
5. They fly back to land, so an island is near.

Triangle: Finding an Island by Stars and Waves

This passage · 128 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. The Pacific Ocean.
2. The stars.
3. By feeling how the canoe rocked in the waves.
4. Wayfinders.
5. They fly back to land, so they show that an island is near.

Square: Finding an Island by Stars and Waves

Harder · 148 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. The enormous Pacific Ocean.
2. The stars.
3. By feeling how the canoe rocked in the waves.
4. Wayfinders.
5. Birds return to land at night, so a bird heading home could point to an island nearby.