Name: _____ Date: _____

Fish Keep Swimming Under Pond Ice

Circle group

In winter, a pond can freeze on top. You see a sheet of ice. Where are the fish?

Ice floats. It stays on top of the water. The water under it stays wet, so the fish can swim.

The ice is like a blanket. It keeps the cold wind away. So the pond does not freeze to the bottom.

The fish swim slowly in the cold. They save energy. In spring the ice melts, and the fish speed up.

Do not walk on pond ice unless a grown-up says it is safe.

Questions

1. What can happen to a pond in winter?

_____

_____

2. Where does the ice stay?

_____

_____

3. What is the ice like?

_____

_____

4. How do the fish swim in the cold?

_____

_____

5. Why is it good that ice floats?

_____

_____

Words to know

freeze: to turn into ice because it is very cold
floats: stays on top of water and does not sink
energy: the power an animal needs to move

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: _____

Fish Keep Swimming Under Pond Ice

Triangle group

In winter, a pond can freeze on top. You may see a flat sheet of ice. You may wonder what happens to the fish.

Here is a surprise. Ice floats. It stays on top of the water, like a lid. The water under the ice stays liquid, so the fish have room to swim.

The ice also works like a blanket. It keeps the cold wind off the water below. So the pond does not freeze all the way to the bottom, at least not in most places.

The fish do not move much in the cold. They swim slowly and save their energy. They do not need much food until spring. When the ice melts, the fish speed up again.

Never walk on pond ice unless a grown-up says it is safe.

Questions

1. What happens to a pond in winter?

_____

_____

2. Where does the ice stay?

_____

_____

3. What does the ice work like?

_____

_____

4. How do the fish move in the cold?

_____

_____

5. Why is it a good thing that ice floats?

_____

_____

Words to know

freeze: to turn into ice because it is very cold
floats: stays on top of water and does not sink
liquid: something wet that flows, like water
energy: the power an animal needs to move

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: _____

Fish Keep Swimming Under Pond Ice

Square group

During winter, the surface of a pond can freeze into a flat sheet of ice, and you may wonder what becomes of the fish beneath it.

Surprisingly, ice floats, so it stays on top of the water like a lid. The water below remains liquid, which gives the fish plenty of room to swim.

The ice also acts like a blanket by blocking the cold wind from the water underneath. As a result, the pond usually does not freeze all the way to the bottom.

In the cold, the fish move very little. They swim slowly to conserve their energy, and they do not need much food until spring arrives. When the ice finally melts, the fish become lively again.

Never step onto pond ice unless a grown-up has told you it is safe.

Questions

1. What can happen to the surface of a pond in winter?

_____

_____

2. Where does the floating ice stay?

_____

_____

3. How does the ice act like a blanket?

_____

_____

4. How do the fish move in the cold, and why?

_____

_____

5. Why is it helpful that ice floats instead of sinking?

_____

_____

Words to know

freeze: to turn into ice because it is very cold
floats: stays on top of water and does not sink
liquid: something wet that flows, like water
energy: the power an animal needs to move

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: Fish Keep Swimming Under Pond Ice

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

Circle: Fish Keep Swimming Under Pond Ice

Easier · 93 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. It can freeze on top.
2. On top of the water.
3. A blanket that keeps the cold wind away.
4. Slowly, to save energy.
5. The water stays wet under it, so fish can swim.

Triangle: Fish Keep Swimming Under Pond Ice

This passage · 134 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. It can freeze on top.
2. It floats on top of the water.
3. A blanket that keeps the cold wind off the water.
4. They swim slowly to save energy.
5. The water stays liquid below it, so fish have room to swim.

Square: Fish Keep Swimming Under Pond Ice

Harder · 135 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. It can freeze into a flat sheet of ice.
2. On top of the water, like a lid.
3. It blocks the cold wind from the water underneath.
4. They swim slowly to conserve their energy.
5. The water below stays liquid, giving the fish room to swim.