Name: _____ Date: _____

Grass Roofs in the Faroe Islands

Circle group

The Faroe Islands are small islands in the cold North Atlantic Ocean. The wind is strong there. It rains a lot.

Long ago, people built houses with grass roofs. First they put down bark. Next they piled on soil. Last they put on grass.

Why a grass roof? The thick roof keeps the warmth in. It keeps the wind and rain out. The grass grows right on top.

Now most houses have normal roofs. But a few old homes still have grass. They look like small green hills.

Questions

1. Where are the Faroe Islands?

_____

_____

2. What did builders put down first?

_____

_____

3. What goes on top of the soil?

_____

_____

4. What does the thick roof keep in?

_____

_____

5. Why was a thick roof good for these islands?

_____

_____

Words to know

islands: pieces of land with water all around them
bark: the tough outside layer of a tree
soil: the dirt that plants grow in

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: _____

Grass Roofs in the Faroe Islands

Triangle group

The Faroe Islands are a group of small islands in the cold North Atlantic Ocean. The wind blows hard there, and rain falls often.

For a long time, people on these islands built houses with roofs made of grass. First they laid down layers of bark. Next they piled soil on top. Last they put down grass, with the roots side down.

Why a roof of grass? The thick layers help keep the warmth inside. They also keep the wind and the rain out. The grass grows right on the roof and stays green.

Today, many houses have normal roofs. But you can still see some old homes with grass on top. Each one looks like a small green hill with a door.

Questions

1. Where are the Faroe Islands?

_____

_____

2. What did builders lay down first on a grass roof?

_____

_____

3. What goes on top of the soil?

_____

_____

4. What does a grass roof keep inside the house?

_____

_____

5. Why was a thick roof a good idea on windy, rainy islands?

_____

_____

Words to know

islands: pieces of land with water all around them
bark: the tough outside layer of a tree
soil: the dirt that plants grow in
layers: flat levels placed one on top of another

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: _____

Grass Roofs in the Faroe Islands

Square group

The Faroe Islands are a cluster of small islands in the chilly North Atlantic Ocean. The wind blows fiercely there, and rain falls frequently.

For many generations, people on these islands built houses with roofs made of grass. Builders began by laying down layers of bark. Then they piled soil on top, and finally they spread grass across it, with the roots side down.

Why would anyone choose a roof of grass? The thick layers help to hold the warmth inside the house, and they also keep out the wind and the rain. The grass grows right on the roof and stays green.

Nowadays, many houses have ordinary roofs, but a few old homes with grass on top remain. Each one looks like a small green hill with a door.

Questions

1. Where are the Faroe Islands located?

_____

_____

2. What did builders lay down first on a grass roof?

_____

_____

3. What was spread across the soil last?

_____

_____

4. What do the thick layers hold inside the house?

_____

_____

5. Why was a thick roof a sensible choice on windy, rainy islands?

_____

_____

Words to know

islands: pieces of land with water all around them
bark: the tough outside layer of a tree
soil: the dirt that plants grow in
layers: flat levels placed one on top of another

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: Grass Roofs in the Faroe Islands

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

Circle: Grass Roofs in the Faroe Islands

Easier · 88 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.1

1. In the cold North Atlantic Ocean.
2. Bark.
3. Grass.
4. The warmth.
5. It kept out the wind and rain and kept the house warm.

Triangle: Grass Roofs in the Faroe Islands

This passage · 123 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. In the cold North Atlantic Ocean.
2. Layers of bark.
3. Grass.
4. The warmth.
5. It kept the wind and rain out and helped the house stay warm.

Square: Grass Roofs in the Faroe Islands

Harder · 130 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. In the chilly North Atlantic Ocean.
2. Layers of bark.
3. Grass.
4. The warmth.
5. It kept out the wind and rain and helped the house stay warm.