Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mule Who Wore Mittens in July

Circle group

Old Mule Mabel lived on a hot ranch. Every day was sunny. Every night was warm.

But Mabel said, "My hooves are cold!"

"It is July," said the cowboy. "No one's feet are cold."

Mabel did not care. She asked the farmer's wife to knit four tiny mittens. They were red with white stripes.

Mabel clip-clopped around in her mittens. The hens stared. The goats giggled.

Then Mabel stepped in a puddle by the water trough. Splash! The puddle was ice cold. It sat in the shade all day.

"I told you so," said Mabel. Her hooves were warm and dry. They were the only ones that did not shiver.

Questions

1. Where did Mabel live?

_____

_____

2. What did Mabel ask the farmer's wife to knit?

_____

_____

3. What colors were the mittens?

_____

_____

4. Where was the ice cold puddle?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mabel say 'I told you so'?

_____

_____

Words to know

ranch: a big farm where cows and horses live
knit: make cloth by looping yarn together
trough: a long box that holds water for animals
shiver: to shake because you feel cold

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: _____

The Mule Who Wore Mittens in July

Triangle group

Old Mule Mabel lived on a hot, dusty ranch. Every day was sunny. Every night was warm.

But Mabel always said, "My hooves are cold!"

"It is July," said the cowboy. "Nobody's feet are cold."

Mabel did not care. She asked the farmer's wife to knit her four tiny mittens. They were red with white stripes.

Mabel clip-clopped around the ranch in her mittens. The chickens stared. The goats giggled. The cowboy shook his head.

Then one day, Mabel stepped in a puddle by the water trough. Splash! The puddle was ice cold, because it was shaded under the trough all day.

"See?" said Mabel. "I told you so." Her dry, warm hooves were the only ones that did not shiver.

Questions

1. Where did Mabel live?

_____

_____

2. What did Mabel ask the farmer's wife to knit?

_____

_____

3. What colors were the mittens?

_____

_____

4. Where did Mabel step in an ice cold puddle?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mabel say 'I told you so'?

_____

_____

Words to know

ranch: a big farm where cows and horses live
knit: make cloth by looping yarn together
trough: a long box that holds water for animals
shiver: to shake because you feel cold

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: _____

The Mule Who Wore Mittens in July

Square group

Old Mule Mabel lived on a scorching, dusty ranch where every day was sunny and every night was warm.

Even so, Mabel complained constantly. "My hooves are freezing!" she said.

"It is the middle of July," said the cowboy. "Nobody's feet are cold."

Mabel did not care what he thought. She asked the farmer's wife to knit her four tiny mittens, which came out red with bright white stripes.

Mabel clip-clopped proudly around the ranch in her new mittens. The chickens stared, the goats giggled, and the cowboy shook his head in wonder.

Then one afternoon, Mabel stepped right into a puddle beside the water trough. Splash! The puddle was icy cold, because it had sat in the shade all day long.

"See? I told you so," said Mabel. Her warm, dry hooves were the only ones on the ranch that did not shiver.

Questions

1. Where did Mabel live?

_____

_____

2. What did Mabel ask the farmer's wife to knit for her?

_____

_____

3. What colors did the mittens come out?

_____

_____

4. Where did Mabel step into the icy cold puddle?

_____

_____

5. Why did Mabel say 'I told you so' to the others?

_____

_____

Words to know

ranch: a big farm where cows and horses live
knit: make cloth by looping yarn together
trough: a long box that holds water for animals
shiver: to shake because you feel cold

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: The Mule Who Wore Mittens in July

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

Circle: The Mule Who Wore Mittens in July

Easier · 111 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. On a hot ranch.
2. Four tiny mittens.
3. Red with white stripes.
4. By the water trough.
5. The puddle was cold, and her mittens kept her hooves warm.

Triangle: The Mule Who Wore Mittens in July

This passage · 122 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. On a hot, dusty ranch.
2. Four tiny mittens.
3. Red with white stripes.
4. By the water trough.
5. The puddle really was cold, and her mittens kept her hooves warm.

Square: The Mule Who Wore Mittens in July

Harder · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. On a scorching, dusty ranch.
2. Four tiny mittens.
3. Red with bright white stripes.
4. Beside the water trough.
5. The puddle really was cold, and her mittens kept her hooves warm and dry.