Name: _____ Date: _____

Playing Knucklebones in Ancient Greece

Circle group

Kids in ancient Greece had no video games. They had no plastic toys. But they still loved to play. One game was knucklebones.

The game pieces were small bones from the ankles of sheep. They were about the size of a pebble. Some were painted. A player kept a handful.

A player tossed the bones in the air. Then the player tried to catch them on the back of the hand. Sometimes players dropped the bones on the ground and picked them up one by one.

Kids in ancient Rome played too. It is like the game of jacks.

Questions

1. What was the game called?

_____

_____

2. What were the game pieces?

_____

_____

3. Where did players try to catch the bones?

_____

_____

4. Which game today is like knucklebones?

_____

_____

5. How do we know kids long ago liked to play?

_____

_____

Words to know

ancient: from a very, very long time ago
tossed: threw something lightly into the air

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: _____

Playing Knucklebones in Ancient Greece

Triangle group

Children in ancient Greece did not have video games or plastic toys. But they still loved to play. One favorite game was called knucklebones.

The game pieces were small bones from the ankles of sheep. They were about the size of a pebble. Some were painted or polished. A player kept a handful of them.

A player tossed the bones in the air. Then the player tried to catch them on the back of the hand. Sometimes players scattered the bones on the ground and picked them up one by one.

Children in ancient Rome played this game, too. It is a lot like the game of jacks that some children play today.

Questions

1. What was the game called?

_____

_____

2. What were the game pieces?

_____

_____

3. Where did players try to catch the bones?

_____

_____

4. Which game today is a lot like knucklebones?

_____

_____

5. How do we know that children long ago liked to play?

_____

_____

Words to know

ancient: from a very, very long time ago
polished: rubbed until smooth and shiny
tossed: threw something lightly into the air
scattered: threw things so they spread out in many places

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: _____

Playing Knucklebones in Ancient Greece

Square group

Children in ancient Greece had neither video games nor plastic toys, yet they still loved to play. One of their favorite games was called knucklebones.

The game pieces were small bones taken from the ankles of sheep, and each was about the size of a pebble. Some were painted or polished until they gleamed, and every player kept a handful.

A player would toss the bones into the air and try to catch them on the back of the hand. At other times, players scattered the bones across the ground and picked them up one at a time.

Children in ancient Rome played this game as well, and it closely resembles the game of jacks that some children enjoy today.

Questions

1. What was one of their favorite games called?

_____

_____

2. What were the game pieces?

_____

_____

3. Where did players try to catch the bones?

_____

_____

4. Which game today closely resembles knucklebones?

_____

_____

5. What does this game show about children long ago?

_____

_____

Words to know

ancient: from a very, very long time ago
polished: rubbed until smooth and shiny
scattered: threw things so they spread out in many places

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: Playing Knucklebones in Ancient Greece

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

Circle: Playing Knucklebones in Ancient Greece

Easier · 99 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. Knucklebones.
2. Small bones from the ankles of sheep.
3. On the back of the hand.
4. Jacks.
5. They made games like knucklebones from things they could find.

Triangle: Playing Knucklebones in Ancient Greece

This passage · 113 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Knucklebones.
2. Small bones from the ankles of sheep.
3. On the back of the hand.
4. Jacks.
5. They made games like knucklebones from things they could find.

Square: Playing Knucklebones in Ancient Greece

Harder · 120 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. Knucklebones.
2. Small bones taken from the ankles of sheep.
3. On the back of the hand.
4. Jacks.
5. They loved to play and made games from things they could find.