Name: _____ Date: _____

Pumice, the Rock That Floats

Circle group

Most rocks sink in water. Drop a stone in a pond. It goes to the bottom. But one rock floats. It is called pumice.

Pumice comes from a volcano. Hot melted rock comes out. It is called lava. The lava has gas in it. The gas makes tiny bubbles. Then the lava gets cool and hard. The bubbles stay inside.

Pumice has lots of tiny holes. It is very light. It has air in it. So it can sit on water like a boat.

Pumice feels rough. Some people rub it on dry skin.

Questions

1. Where does pumice come from?

_____

_____

2. What makes the bubbles in the lava?

_____

_____

3. Why is pumice light?

_____

_____

4. How does pumice feel?

_____

_____

5. What would pumice do in a bathtub?

_____

_____

Words to know

pumice: a light rock full of tiny holes that can float
volcano: a mountain with an opening where hot melted rock comes out
lava: hot melted rock that flows out of a volcano
bubbles: round pockets of gas or 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: _____

Pumice, the Rock That Floats

Triangle group

Most rocks sink in water. A stone dropped in a pond goes right to the bottom. But there is one rock that can float. It is called pumice.

Pumice is born inside a volcano. Hot melted rock, called lava, comes out of the volcano. Sometimes the lava is full of gas. The gas makes thousands of tiny bubbles, like the bubbles in a fizzy drink. Then the lava cools and turns hard, and the bubbles are still inside.

Because of all those little holes, pumice is very light. It has more air in it than a regular rock. That is why it can sit on top of the water like a small boat.

Pumice feels rough and bumpy. Some people use a piece of it to rub rough, dry skin on their feet.

Questions

1. Where is pumice born?

_____

_____

2. What makes the tiny bubbles in the lava?

_____

_____

3. Why is pumice so light?

_____

_____

4. How does pumice feel when you touch it?

_____

_____

5. What do you think would happen if you put a piece of pumice in a bathtub?

_____

_____

Words to know

pumice: a light rock full of tiny holes that can float
volcano: a mountain with an opening where hot melted rock comes out
lava: hot melted rock that flows out of a volcano
bubbles: round pockets of gas or 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: _____

Pumice, the Rock That Floats

Square group

Nearly every rock sinks when it is dropped into water. A stone tossed into a pond travels straight to the bottom. However, there is one unusual kind of rock that is able to float, and it is called pumice.

Pumice is formed inside a volcano. Hot melted rock, known as lava, pours out of the volcano, and sometimes that lava is packed with gas. The gas creates thousands of tiny bubbles, much like the bubbles in a fizzy drink. Then the lava cools and turns hard, but the bubbles remain trapped inside.

Because it is full of little holes, pumice is extremely light. It contains much more air than a regular rock does, which is why it can rest on top of the water like a small boat.

Pumice feels rough and bumpy to the touch, and some people use a piece of it to rub rough, dry skin on their feet.

Questions

1. Where is pumice formed?

_____

_____

2. What creates the thousands of tiny bubbles in the lava?

_____

_____

3. Why is pumice so much lighter than a regular rock?

_____

_____

4. What does pumice feel like to the touch?

_____

_____

5. What would probably happen if you placed a piece of pumice in a bathtub?

_____

_____

Words to know

pumice: a light rock full of tiny holes that can float
volcano: a mountain with an opening where hot melted rock comes out
lava: hot melted rock that flows out of a volcano
bubbles: round pockets of gas or 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?

For the teacher: Pumice, the Rock That Floats

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

Circle: Pumice, the Rock That Floats

Easier · 94 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. From a volcano.
2. Gas.
3. It has many tiny holes with air.
4. Rough.
5. It would float.

Triangle: Pumice, the Rock That Floats

This passage · 133 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. Inside a volcano.
2. Gas.
3. It has many tiny holes full of air.
4. Rough and bumpy.
5. It would float on top of the water.

Square: Pumice, the Rock That Floats

Harder · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. Inside a volcano.
2. Gas.
3. It is full of tiny holes that hold air.
4. Rough and bumpy.
5. It would float on top of the water.