Name: _____ Date: _____

Seeing Through the Ice of Lake Baikal

Circle group

Lake Baikal is a big lake in Russia. Its water is clean and clear. In summer, you can see rocks far below the boat.

In winter, it gets very cold. The lake freezes. The ice gets thick. Trucks can drive on it, but people must ask local guides where it is safe.

In many places, the ice is clear like glass. You can look down and see the water below. Some ice has long cracks that glitter. Some has bubbles frozen in it.

Visitors come to see the shining ice.

Questions

1. In which country is Lake Baikal?

_____

_____

2. What can you see in summer?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the lake in winter?

_____

_____

4. What is some of the ice like?

_____

_____

5. Why must people ask local guides about the ice?

_____

_____

Words to know

clear: easy to see through
freezes: turns into ice because it is very cold
glitter: shine with little flashes of light

guides: people who know a place and show it to others

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: _____

Seeing Through the Ice of Lake Baikal

Triangle group

Lake Baikal is a very big lake in Russia. Its water is clean and clear. In summer, people can look down and see rocks far below the boat.

In winter, it gets very cold there. The lake freezes over. The ice gets so thick that trucks can drive on it. People must ask local guides where it is safe.

In many places, the ice is as clear as glass. If you look down, you can see through it to the water below. Some ice has long cracks that glitter like white lines. Some has bubbles frozen in it, like tiny silver coins.

Visitors come to see this shining lake, even in the cold.

Questions

1. In which country is Lake Baikal?

_____

_____

2. What can people see in the lake in summer?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the lake in winter?

_____

_____

4. What is some of the ice like?

_____

_____

5. Why must people listen to local guides on the ice?

_____

_____

Words to know

clear: easy to see through
freezes: turns into ice because it is very cold
glitter: shine with little flashes of light
guides: people who know a place and show it to others

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: _____

Seeing Through the Ice of Lake Baikal

Square group

Lake Baikal is an immense lake in the country of Russia. Its water is remarkably clean and clear, so in summer a person in a boat can look down and spot rocks far below the surface.

In winter, the weather there turns bitterly cold, and the lake freezes over. The ice becomes thick enough for trucks to drive across, which is why people must listen carefully to local guides about where it is safe.

In many places, the ice is as transparent as glass, and you can gaze through it into the water below. Some of the ice has long cracks that glitter like white lines, and some has bubbles frozen inside it, like tiny silver coins.

Even in the cold, visitors travel from far away to admire this shining, frozen lake.

Questions

1. In which country is Lake Baikal found?

_____

_____

2. What can a person in a boat spot in summer?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the lake when the weather turns bitterly cold?

_____

_____

4. What is the ice like in many places?

_____

_____

5. Why must people listen carefully to local guides on the ice?

_____

_____

Words to know

clear: easy to see through
freezes: turns into ice because it is very cold
glitter: shine with little flashes of light
guides: people who know a place and show it to others

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: Seeing Through the Ice of Lake Baikal

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

Circle: Seeing Through the Ice of Lake Baikal

Easier · 90 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. Russia.
2. Rocks far below the boat.
3. It freezes.
4. Clear like glass.
5. Guides know where the ice is safe.

Triangle: Seeing Through the Ice of Lake Baikal

This passage · 113 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. Russia.
2. Rocks far below the boat.
3. It freezes over.
4. As clear as glass.
5. Guides know where the ice is safe to walk or drive on.

Square: Seeing Through the Ice of Lake Baikal

Harder · 132 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.1

1. Russia.
2. Rocks far below the surface.
3. It freezes over.
4. As transparent as glass.
5. The guides know where the ice is safe for walking or driving.