Name: _____ Date: _____

The Cool Dark Root Cellar

Circle group

Long ago, many homes had no fridge. How did families keep food fresh in winter? They used a root cellar.

A root cellar is a small room in the ground. It may be under a home or in a hill. The ground keeps it cool. It is dark too. That helps keep veggies fresh.

In the fall, families put in potatoes, carrots, apples, and onions. Some packed carrots in sand.

In winter, they went down the steps to get dinner.

Questions

1. What is a root cellar?

_____

_____

2. Why does a root cellar stay cool?

_____

_____

3. What foods did families keep in it?

_____

_____

4. What did some families pack carrots in?

_____

_____

5. Why did families need a root cellar long ago?

_____

_____

Words to know

cellar: a room under the ground

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 Cool Dark Root Cellar

Triangle group

Long ago, many families had no refrigerator. How did they keep food fresh all winter? Many used a root cellar.

A root cellar is a small room dug into the ground. It may be under a house or in a hill. The earth around it stays cool. It is dark too. That helps vegetables stay fresh.

In the fall, families filled the cellar with potatoes, carrots, apples, and onions. They put them on shelves and in bins. Some packed carrots in sand.

In the cold months, they walked down the steps to fetch dinner. Some people still use root cellars today.

Questions

1. What is a root cellar?

_____

_____

2. Why does the root cellar stay cool?

_____

_____

3. What foods did families store in a root cellar?

_____

_____

4. How did some people store carrots?

_____

_____

5. Why did families need a root cellar long ago?

_____

_____

Words to know

cellar: a room under the ground
bins: big open boxes for holding things
fetch: to go and get something

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 Cool Dark Root Cellar

Square group

Long ago, many families did not own a refrigerator. How did they keep their food from spoiling all winter long? Many of them relied on a root cellar.

A root cellar is a small room dug into the ground, perhaps beneath a house or into the side of a hill. The earth surrounding it stays cool throughout the year. The room is also dark, which helps vegetables stay fresh for a long time.

In the fall, families filled their cellars with potatoes, carrots, apples, and onions, storing them on shelves and in large bins. Sometimes they even packed carrots in sand.

During the cold months, they could simply walk down the steps and fetch their dinner. Some people still use root cellars today.

Questions

1. What is a root cellar?

_____

_____

2. Why does the root cellar stay cool all year?

_____

_____

3. Which foods did families store in their cellars?

_____

_____

4. What did some families pack carrots in?

_____

_____

5. Why did many families rely on a root cellar long ago?

_____

_____

Words to know

cellar: a room under the ground
spoiling: going bad so it cannot be eaten
bins: big open boxes for holding things
fetch: to go and get something

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 Cool Dark Root Cellar

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

Circle: The Cool Dark Root Cellar

Easier · 80 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. A small room in the ground.
2. The earth around it stays cool.
3. Potatoes, carrots, apples, and onions.
4. Sand.
5. They had no refrigerator, so they needed a cool place for food.

Triangle: The Cool Dark Root Cellar

This passage · 101 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. A small room dug into the ground.
2. The earth around it stays cool all year.
3. Potatoes, carrots, apples, and onions.
4. They packed them in sand.
5. They had no refrigerator, so they needed a cool place to keep food from spoiling.

Square: The Cool Dark Root Cellar

Harder · 123 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. A small room dug into the ground.
2. The earth surrounding it stays cool throughout the year.
3. Potatoes, carrots, apples, and onions.
4. Sand.
5. They did not have a refrigerator, so they needed a cool place to keep food from spoiling.