Name: _____ Date: _____

The Cows That Climb Up the Alps

Circle group

The Alps are tall mountains in Europe. Some are in Switzerland. In winter, snow covers the high meadows. In summer, the snow melts and grass grows.

In Switzerland, farmers take their cows up the mountain in summer. The cows walk a long way. Many wear big bells. The bells ring, so the farmers can find them.

The cows stay up high all summer. They eat grass and wildflowers. Their milk is made into cheese.

In fall, it gets cold. The farmers bring the cows down to the valley. Some towns have a parade.

Questions

1. What covers the high meadows in winter?

_____

_____

2. When do the farmers take the cows up?

_____

_____

3. Why do the cows wear bells?

_____

_____

4. What is the milk made into?

_____

_____

5. Why do the farmers bring the cows down in fall?

_____

_____

Words to know

meadows: fields full of grass and flowers
valley: low land between mountains or hills
parade: a line of people marching to celebrate 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 Cows That Climb Up the Alps

Triangle group

The Alps are tall mountains in Europe. Part of them are in Switzerland. In winter, snow covers the high meadows. But in summer, the snow melts and green grass grows.

In Switzerland, farmers take their cows up the mountain when summer comes. The cows walk a long way along a path. Many wear big bells. The bells ring with every step, so the farmers can find the herd.

The cows spend the summer in the high meadows. They eat fresh grass and wildflowers. Their milk is used to make cheese.

When fall comes, the weather turns cold again. The farmers bring the cows back down to the valley. Some towns have a happy parade to welcome them home.

Questions

1. What covers the high meadows in winter?

_____

_____

2. When do the farmers take the cows up the mountain?

_____

_____

3. Why do many cows wear bells?

_____

_____

4. What is the cows' milk used to make?

_____

_____

5. Why do the farmers bring the cows down in the fall?

_____

_____

Words to know

meadows: fields full of grass and flowers
herd: a group of animals that stay together
valley: low land between mountains or hills
parade: a line of people marching to celebrate 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 Cows That Climb Up the Alps

Square group

The Alps are a range of towering mountains in Europe, and a portion of them lies in Switzerland. In winter, snow blankets the high meadows, but in summer the snow melts and fresh green grass begins to grow.

When summer arrives, Swiss farmers lead their cows up the mountain. The cows trudge a long distance along a winding path, and many of them wear large bells. The bells ring with every step, which allows the farmers to locate the herd.

The cows spend the entire summer in the high meadows, where they graze on fresh grass and wildflowers. Their milk is turned into cheese.

When fall comes and the weather turns cold once more, the farmers guide the cows back down to the valley. Some towns even hold a cheerful parade to welcome them home.

Questions

1. What blankets the high meadows in winter?

_____

_____

2. When do the farmers lead their cows up the mountain?

_____

_____

3. How do the bells help the farmers?

_____

_____

4. What is the cows' milk turned into?

_____

_____

5. Why do the farmers guide the cows down when fall comes?

_____

_____

Words to know

meadows: fields full of grass and flowers
herd: a group of animals that stay together
valley: low land between mountains or hills
parade: a line of people marching to celebrate 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 Cows That Climb Up the Alps

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

Circle: The Cows That Climb Up the Alps

Easier · 93 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. Snow.
2. In summer.
3. The bells ring, so the farmers can find them.
4. Cheese.
5. It gets cold again up high.

Triangle: The Cows That Climb Up the Alps

This passage · 118 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Snow.
2. In summer.
3. The bells ring, so the farmers can find the herd.
4. Cheese.
5. The weather turns cold again, and the grass up high is not good for eating.

Square: The Cows That Climb Up the Alps

Harder · 135 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. Snow.
2. In summer.
3. The bells ring with every step, so the farmers can locate the herd.
4. Cheese.
5. The weather turns cold again up high, so the cows must return to the valley.