Name: _____ Date: _____

The Glass Circles That Helped People Read

Circle group

Many people find small print hard to read as they get older. Long ago, they had no glasses. The words looked blurry.

Then, more than seven hundred years ago, makers in Italy had an idea. They shaped clear glass so it curved. Curved glass can make small words look bigger.

They put two round pieces of glass in frames and joined them. The first glasses had no arms. A person held them up or let them rest on the nose.

Soon more people wanted a pair. Now glasses help people of every age.

Questions

1. What was hard for older people to read?

_____

_____

2. Where did makers first shape glass for reading?

_____

_____

3. What did curved glass do to small words?

_____

_____

4. What did the first glasses not have?

_____

_____

5. How did people keep the first glasses in place?

_____

_____

Words to know

blurry: not clear, hard to see sharply
curved: bent in a round shape, not flat
frames: the parts that hold the glass of a pair of glasses

print: the letters and words on a page

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 Glass Circles That Helped People Read

Triangle group

Many people find small print hard to read as they grow older. Long ago, they had no glasses to help them. The words just looked blurry.

Then, more than seven hundred years ago, makers in Italy had an idea. They shaped clear glass so it curved. A curved piece of glass can make small words look bigger.

They put two round pieces of glass into frames and joined them together. The first glasses had no arms. A person held them up or let them rest on the nose.

Soon more people wanted a pair. Glass makers began to make many of them. Today, glasses help people of every age see better.

Questions

1. What was hard for older people to read?

_____

_____

2. Where did makers first shape glass for reading?

_____

_____

3. What did a curved piece of glass do to small words?

_____

_____

4. What did the first glasses not have?

_____

_____

5. How did people keep the first glasses in place?

_____

_____

Words to know

blurry: not clear, hard to see sharply
curved: bent in a round shape, not flat
frames: the parts that hold the glass of a pair of glasses
print: the letters and words on a page

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 Glass Circles That Helped People Read

Square group

As people grow older, many of them find that small print becomes difficult to read. Long ago, there were no glasses to help, so words on a page simply looked blurry.

Then, more than seven hundred years ago, glass makers in Italy came up with a remarkable idea. They shaped clear glass into a curved form, and a curved piece of glass can make small words appear much bigger.

They set two round pieces of glass into frames and joined the frames together. The earliest glasses had no arms, so a person had to hold them up or balance them on the nose.

Before long, more and more people wanted a pair, and glass makers began producing many of them. Today, glasses help people of every age see more clearly.

Questions

1. What becomes difficult to read as people grow older?

_____

_____

2. Where did glass makers first shape glass for reading?

_____

_____

3. What can a curved piece of glass do to small words?

_____

_____

4. What did the earliest glasses not have?

_____

_____

5. How did people keep the earliest glasses in place?

_____

_____

Words to know

blurry: not clear, hard to see sharply
curved: bent in a round shape, not flat
frames: the parts that hold the glass of a pair of glasses
print: the letters and words on a page

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 Glass Circles That Helped People Read

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

Circle: The Glass Circles That Helped People Read

Easier · 93 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Small print.
2. In Italy.
3. It made them look bigger.
4. Arms.
5. They held them up or let them rest on the nose.

Triangle: The Glass Circles That Helped People Read

This passage · 111 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Small print.
2. In Italy.
3. It made them look bigger.
4. Arms.
5. They held them up or let them rest on the nose.

Square: The Glass Circles That Helped People Read

Harder · 130 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. Small print.
2. In Italy.
3. It can make them appear much bigger.
4. Arms.
5. They held them up or balanced them on the nose.