Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ice Rink Gets a Smooth Bath

Circle group

Skaters glide on an ice rink all day. Their blades cut tiny lines in the ice. Soon the ice is scratched and bumpy.

A special machine rolls out. It is the size of a small truck. A driver sits on top.

A sharp blade shaves off a thin layer of ice. The bits go in a big tank. Then the machine sprays warm water. The water fills the scratches. It spreads out flat.

Then it freezes. The ice is shiny and smooth. The skaters come back.

Questions

1. What is a drawbridge?

_____

_____

2. What did a castle drawbridge stretch across?

_____

_____

3. What did people use to haul the bridge up?

_____

_____

4. Why could a castle raise its bridge at night?

_____

_____

5. What do river drawbridges let pass through?

_____

_____

6. Why might a river town prefer a low bridge that opens to a very high one?

_____

_____

Words to know

rink: a flat place for ice skating
glide: to slide along smoothly
shaves: cuts off a very thin piece
layer: one flat coat or sheet on top of something
scratches: thin marks that cut into a surface

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 Ice Rink Gets a Smooth Bath

Triangle group

Skaters glide across an ice rink all day. Their blades cut tiny lines in the ice. Soon the ice looks scratched and bumpy.

To fix it, a special machine rolls out onto the rink. It is about the size of a small truck. A driver sits on top and steers it slowly back and forth.

First, a sharp blade under the machine shaves off a thin layer of ice. The shavings are picked up and carried into a big tank. Next, the machine sprays a little warm water on the ice. The water fills in the scratches and spreads out flat.

Then the water freezes. In a short time, the ice is shiny and smooth again. The skaters can come back for a fresh start.

Questions

1. What do skate blades do to the ice?

_____

_____

2. About how big is the machine?

_____

_____

3. What does the blade under the machine do?

_____

_____

4. Where do the shavings go?

_____

_____

5. What does the warm water do to the scratches?

_____

_____

6. Why does the machine spray water and not paint?

_____

_____

Words to know

rink: a flat place for ice skating
glide: to slide along smoothly
shaves: cuts off a very thin piece
layer: one flat coat or sheet on top of something
scratches: thin marks that cut into a surface

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 Ice Rink Gets a Smooth Bath

Square group

Skaters glide across an ice rink all day long, and their blades carve tiny lines into the surface of the ice. Before very long, the ice looks scratched and bumpy.

To repair it, a special machine rolls out onto the rink. It is about as large as a small truck, and a driver sits on top and steers it slowly back and forth across the ice.

First, a sharp blade underneath the machine shaves off a thin layer of ice. The shavings are scooped up and carried into a big tank. Next, the machine sprays a little warm water onto the ice. The water fills in all of the scratches and spreads out until it is flat.

Then the water freezes. In a short while, the ice is shiny and smooth once again, and the skaters are able to return for a fresh start.

Questions

1. What do skate blades do to the surface of the ice?

_____

_____

2. About how large is the machine?

_____

_____

3. What does the blade underneath the machine do?

_____

_____

4. Where do the shavings end up?

_____

_____

5. What does the warm water do to the scratches?

_____

_____

6. Why does the machine spray water instead of paint?

_____

_____

Words to know

rink: a flat place for ice skating
glide: to slide along smoothly
shaves: cuts off a very thin piece
layer: one flat coat or sheet on top of something
scratches: thin marks that cut into a surface

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 Ice Rink Gets a Smooth Bath

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

Circle: The Ice Rink Gets a Smooth Bath

Easier · 86 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.5

1. A bridge that is able to move.
2. A deep ditch of water called a moat.
3. Chains.
4. To keep strangers outside.
5. Tall boats.
6. The low bridge is easy for cars to reach, and it opens only when a tall boat needs room.

Triangle: The Ice Rink Gets a Smooth Bath

This passage · 125 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. They cut tiny lines in it.
2. About the size of a small truck.
3. It shaves off a thin layer of ice.
4. They are carried into a big tank.
5. It fills them in and spreads out flat.
6. Water freezes into new ice, so the rink is smooth again.

Square: The Ice Rink Gets a Smooth Bath

Harder · 144 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. They carve tiny lines into it.
2. About as large as a small truck.
3. It shaves off a thin layer of ice.
4. They are carried into a big tank.
5. It fills in all of them and spreads out flat.
6. Water freezes into new ice, so the rink becomes smooth again.