Name: _____ Date: _____

The Otter Who Lost His Lucky Rock

Circle group

Otto the otter had a lucky rock. He used it to crack clams. He kept it under his arm all day.

One day the river was loud and fast. Otto slipped. The rock fell in the deep water. Down it went.

Otto dove again and again. He found nothing. He did not want to ask for help. "I can find it by myself," he said.

A tall heron walked by. "You look tired," she said. "What are you doing?"

Otto told her. The heron looked in the water with her sharp eyes. "There," she said. "Next to the green stone."

Otto dove and got his rock. "Thank you," he said. "Next time I will ask sooner."

Questions

1. What did Otto use his rock for?

_____

_____

2. How did Otto lose the rock?

_____

_____

3. Why did Otto not ask for help at first?

_____

_____

4. Who helped Otto?

_____

_____

5. How was the heron able to spot the rock?

_____

_____

6. What does Otto learn?

_____

_____

Words to know

clam: a sea animal with a hard shell in two parts
heron: a tall bird with long legs that wades in water

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 Otter Who Lost His Lucky Rock

Triangle group

Otto the otter had a lucky rock. He used it to crack open clams, and he kept it tucked under his arm all day.

One afternoon the river was loud and fast. Otto slipped, and the rock splashed into the deep water. Down it sank.

Otto dove again and again, but he came up empty each time. He was too proud to tell anyone. "I can find it alone," he muttered.

At last a long-legged heron strolled by. "You look tired," she said. "What are you doing?"

Otto sighed and told her. The heron peered into the water with her sharp eyes. "There," she said. "Beside the green stone."

Otto dove and brought up his rock. He hugged it tight. "Thank you," he said. "Next time I will ask sooner."

Questions

1. What did Otto use his lucky rock for?

_____

_____

2. How did Otto lose the rock?

_____

_____

3. Why did Otto not ask for help at first?

_____

_____

4. Who helped Otto find the rock?

_____

_____

5. Why was the heron able to spot the rock?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does Otto learn?

_____

_____

Words to know

clam: a sea animal with a hard shell in two parts
muttered: said something in a low voice
heron: a tall bird with long legs that wades in water
peered: looked closely at 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 Otter Who Lost His Lucky Rock

Square group

Otto the otter owned a lucky rock, which he used to crack open clams and which he carried tucked beneath his arm all day long.

One afternoon the river was loud and rushing. Otto lost his footing, and the rock splashed into the deep water and sank out of sight.

Otto dove again and again, but he surfaced empty-handed every time. He was far too proud to tell anyone. "I am certain I can find it by myself," he muttered.

Eventually a long-legged heron strolled along the bank. "You look exhausted," she observed. "What on earth are you doing?"

Otto sighed and explained everything. The heron peered into the water with her sharp eyes. "There it is," she said. "Right beside the green stone."

Otto dove once more and brought up his rock. He hugged it tightly. "Thank you," he said. "Next time I will ask much sooner."

Questions

1. What did Otto use his lucky rock to do?

_____

_____

2. How did Otto lose his rock?

_____

_____

3. Why did Otto refuse to ask anyone for help?

_____

_____

4. Who helped Otto find the rock?

_____

_____

5. Why was the heron able to spot the rock when Otto could not?

_____

_____

6. What does Otto learn by the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

clam: a sea animal with a hard shell in two parts
muttered: said something in a low voice
heron: a tall bird with long legs that wades in water
peered: looked closely at 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 Otter Who Lost His Lucky Rock

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

Circle: The Otter Who Lost His Lucky Rock

Easier · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. To crack clams.
2. He slipped in the fast river and it fell in the deep water.
3. He was too proud.
4. A heron.
5. She had sharp eyes and looked into the water.
6. It is smart to ask for help.

Triangle: The Otter Who Lost His Lucky Rock

This passage · 131 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. To crack open clams.
2. He slipped in the fast river and it splashed into the deep water.
3. He was too proud.
4. A heron.
5. She had sharp eyes and could see from above the water.
6. It is smart to ask for help when you need it.

Square: The Otter Who Lost His Lucky Rock

Harder · 150 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. Crack open clams.
2. He lost his footing in the rushing river and it sank in the deep water.
3. He was far too proud.
4. A long-legged heron.
5. She had sharp eyes and could look down into the water from the bank.
6. Asking for help early is sensible, not weak.