Name: _____ Date: _____

The Salt Flat That Turns Into a Mirror

Circle group

In Bolivia, there is a big, flat place. It is covered with salt. The salt is white and hard. It goes on and on.

Most of the year, it is dry. People can walk on it. They gather some salt to put in food.

Then the rainy season comes. A thin sheet of water sits on the salt. The water is still. Now the ground is like a mirror!

You can see clouds and the blue sky in the water. A visitor feels like she is walking in the sky.

Questions

1. In which country is this salt place?

_____

_____

2. What covers the ground?

_____

_____

3. What do people gather and put in food?

_____

_____

4. What do you see in the still water?

_____

_____

5. Why does a visitor feel like she is walking in the sky?

_____

_____

Words to know

salt: a white seasoning that comes from the ground or the sea
still: not moving at all
mirror: a smooth glass that shows what is in front of it

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 Salt Flat That Turns Into a Mirror

Triangle group

In the country of Bolivia, there is a huge, flat place covered with salt. It is called Salar de Uyuni. The salt is white and hard, and it spreads out as far as you can see.

Most of the year, this place is dry. You can walk on the white crust. People even gather some of the salt to use in food.

Then the rainy season comes. A thin sheet of water settles on top of the salt. The water is only a little deep, and it is very still. Now the ground works like a mirror!

The clouds and the blue sky show up in the water. A visitor can stand in the middle and feel like she is walking in the sky.

Questions

1. In which country is Salar de Uyuni?

_____

_____

2. What covers the ground in this flat place?

_____

_____

3. What do people gather from the dry crust?

_____

_____

4. What does the water show when it is still?

_____

_____

5. Why does a visitor feel like she is walking in the sky?

_____

_____

Words to know

salt: a white seasoning that comes from the ground or the sea
crust: a hard layer on top of something
still: not moving at all
mirror: a smooth glass that shows what is in front of it

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 Salt Flat That Turns Into a Mirror

Square group

In the South American country of Bolivia, there is an enormous, flat expanse covered with salt. It is named Salar de Uyuni. The salt is white and hard, and it stretches out in every direction as far as the eye can see.

During most of the year, this region is dry, and people can walk across the white crust. Workers even gather some of the salt so that it can be used in food.

When the rainy season arrives, a thin sheet of water settles on top of the salt. Because the water is only a little deep and perfectly still, the ground begins to act like a mirror.

The clouds and the blue sky appear in the water, and a visitor standing in the middle can feel as though she is walking in the sky.

Questions

1. In which country is Salar de Uyuni found?

_____

_____

2. What covers the enormous, flat expanse?

_____

_____

3. What do workers gather from the dry crust?

_____

_____

4. What appears in the water when it is perfectly still?

_____

_____

5. Why might a visitor feel as though she is walking in the sky?

_____

_____

Words to know

salt: a white seasoning that comes from the ground or the sea
crust: a hard layer on top of something
still: not moving at all
mirror: a smooth glass that shows what is in front of it

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 Salt Flat That Turns Into a Mirror

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

Circle: The Salt Flat That Turns Into a Mirror

Easier · 90 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. Bolivia.
2. Salt.
3. Some of the salt.
4. The clouds and the blue sky.
5. The water shows the sky, so the sky seems to be on the ground.

Triangle: The Salt Flat That Turns Into a Mirror

This passage · 124 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. Bolivia.
2. Salt.
3. Some of the salt, to use in food.
4. The clouds and the blue sky.
5. The still water reflects the sky, so the sky seems to be on the ground too.

Square: The Salt Flat That Turns Into a Mirror

Harder · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.8

1. Bolivia.
2. Salt.
3. Some of the salt, so it can be used in food.
4. The clouds and the blue sky.
5. The still water reflects the sky, so the sky seems to appear on the ground as well.