Name: _____ Date: _____

Vanilla Flowers Open for a Day

Circle group

Vanilla gives cakes and ice cream a sweet smell. It grows on a vine. The vine is a kind of orchid. It climbs up trees and poles.

The vanilla flower is pale yellow. It opens for just one day. On that day, it must be pollinated. If not, no bean will grow. On many farms, workers do it by hand with a tiny stick.

Then a long green pod grows. The pod is picked after many months. Workers dry it in the sun. It turns dark brown. Then it smells sweet.

Questions

1. What kind of plant is the vanilla vine?

_____

_____

2. How long is the flower open?

_____

_____

3. What do workers use to help the flowers?

_____

_____

4. What color is the pod after it is dried?

_____

_____

5. Why must workers hurry when a flower opens?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchid: a kind of plant with fancy, bright flowers
pollinated: given pollen so a flower can make seeds
pod: a long case that holds seeds

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: _____

Vanilla Flowers Open for a Day

Triangle group

Vanilla gives cakes and ice cream a sweet smell. It starts on a vine. The vine is a kind of orchid, and it climbs up trees and poles.

The vanilla flower is pale yellow. It opens for only one day. On that day, it must be pollinated, or no bean will grow. On many farms, workers do this by hand with a tiny stick. They look at each flower, one by one.

If it works, a long green pod begins to grow. It is picked after many months. At first, the pod does not smell like vanilla at all.

Workers dry the pods in the sun for weeks. The pods turn dark brown and wrinkled, and then they smell sweet.

Questions

1. What kind of plant is the vanilla vine?

_____

_____

2. How long does a vanilla flower stay open?

_____

_____

3. How do workers help the flowers on many farms?

_____

_____

4. What color are the pods after they are dried?

_____

_____

5. Why do workers have to be careful about the one day the flower is open?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchid: a kind of plant with fancy, bright flowers
pollinated: given pollen so a flower can make seeds
pod: a long case that holds seeds
wrinkled: full of small folds and lines

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: _____

Vanilla Flowers Open for a Day

Square group

Vanilla gives cakes and ice cream their wonderful, sweet smell, and it begins on a vine. The vine is a type of orchid that climbs up trees and poles as it grows.

The vanilla flower is pale yellow, and it stays open for only a single day. On that day, it must be pollinated, or no bean will form. On many farms, workers pollinate the flowers by hand with a tiny stick, carefully checking each blossom one by one.

If the pollination works, a long green pod begins to grow, and it is picked after many months. At first, the pod does not smell like vanilla at all.

Workers dry the pods in the sun for several weeks. The pods turn dark brown and wrinkled, and only then do they smell sweet.

Questions

1. What type of plant is the vanilla vine?

_____

_____

2. How long does each vanilla flower stay open?

_____

_____

3. How do workers help the flowers on many farms?

_____

_____

4. What do the pods look like after they have been dried?

_____

_____

5. Why must workers be so careful on the day a flower opens?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchid: a kind of plant with fancy, bright flowers
pollinated: given pollen so a flower can make seeds
pod: a long case that holds seeds
wrinkled: full of small folds and lines

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: Vanilla Flowers Open for a Day

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

Circle: Vanilla Flowers Open for a Day

Easier · 91 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. An orchid.
2. One day.
3. A tiny stick.
4. Dark brown.
5. If the flower is not pollinated that day, no bean will grow.

Triangle: Vanilla Flowers Open for a Day

This passage · 120 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. A kind of orchid.
2. Only one day.
3. They pollinate them by hand with a tiny stick.
4. Dark brown.
5. If the flower is not pollinated that day, no bean will grow.

Square: Vanilla Flowers Open for a Day

Harder · 132 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. A type of orchid.
2. Only a single day.
3. They pollinate them by hand with a tiny stick.
4. Dark brown and wrinkled.
5. The flower must be pollinated that day, or no bean will form.