Name: _____ Date: _____

A Mobile Is a Balancing Act

Circle group

A mobile is art that hangs from the ceiling. It moves in the air. Some mobiles have paper birds. Some have shiny shapes. All of them must balance.

A mobile is made of bars. Each bar hangs from a string. A shape hangs from each end. If one shape is heavier, the bar tips down on that side.

The maker slides the string toward the heavy side. Then the bar can balance. It is like a see saw. A big child sits close to the middle. A small child sits far from it.

The maker adds one bar at a time and checks it. Then a soft breeze can turn the whole mobile.

Questions

1. Where does a mobile hang?

_____

_____

2. What does each bar hang from?

_____

_____

3. What happens if one shape is heavier?

_____

_____

4. How does the maker fix a bar that tips?

_____

_____

5. Why does the maker add one bar at a time?

_____

_____

6. What makes a finished mobile turn?

_____

_____

Words to know

mobile: a hanging artwork with parts that move
balance: to stay steady without tipping over
heavier: weighing more than something else
breeze: a gentle, light wind
ceiling: the top surface of a room

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: _____

A Mobile Is a Balancing Act

Triangle group

A mobile is a piece of art that hangs from the ceiling and moves in the air. Some mobiles have paper birds. Some have shiny shapes or small shells. All of them have to balance.

A mobile is built from bars. Each bar hangs from a string tied at one spot. A shape hangs from each end of the bar. If one shape is heavier than the other, the bar tips down on that side.

To fix this, the maker slides the string toward the heavy side. A heavy shape near the string and a light shape far from it can balance. It works the same way a see saw does when a small child sits far from the middle and a bigger child sits close.

Small bars can hang from bigger bars. The maker adds one at a time and checks the balance. When all the parts are just right, a soft breeze makes the whole mobile turn slowly.

Questions

1. Where does a mobile hang?

_____

_____

2. What does each bar hang from?

_____

_____

3. What happens if one shape is heavier than the other?

_____

_____

4. How does the maker fix a bar that tips?

_____

_____

5. Why does the maker add the pieces one at a time?

_____

_____

6. What makes a finished mobile turn?

_____

_____

Words to know

mobile: a hanging artwork with parts that move
balance: to stay steady without tipping over
heavier: weighing more than something else
breeze: a gentle, light wind
ceiling: the top surface of a room

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: _____

A Mobile Is a Balancing Act

Square group

A mobile is a piece of art that dangles from the ceiling and drifts with the movement of the air. Some mobiles carry paper birds, while others hold glittering shapes or tiny shells. Whatever they carry, every mobile must be balanced.

A mobile is constructed from bars. Each bar hangs from a string that is tied at a single spot, and a shape dangles from each end of the bar. When one shape is heavier than the other, the bar tips down toward the heavy side.

To correct this, the maker slides the string closer to the heavy side. A heavy shape near the string can balance a light shape far from it. A see saw works the same way when a small child sits far from the middle and a bigger child sits close to it.

Smaller bars can hang from larger bars. The maker adds them one at a time, checking the balance each time. Once every part is just right, a gentle breeze will turn the entire mobile slowly.

Questions

1. Where does a mobile dangle?

_____

_____

2. What does each bar hang from?

_____

_____

3. What happens when one shape is heavier than the other?

_____

_____

4. How does the maker correct a bar that tips?

_____

_____

5. Why does the maker check the balance after adding each piece?

_____

_____

6. What turns a finished mobile slowly?

_____

_____

Words to know

mobile: a hanging artwork with parts that move
balance: to stay steady without tipping over
heavier: weighing more than something else
breeze: a gentle, light wind
ceiling: the top surface of a room

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: A Mobile Is a Balancing Act

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

Circle: A Mobile Is a Balancing Act

Easier · 113 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. From the ceiling.
2. A string.
3. The bar tips down on that side.
4. By sliding the string toward the heavy side.
5. To check that the mobile still balances.
6. A soft breeze.

Triangle: A Mobile Is a Balancing Act

This passage · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. From the ceiling.
2. A string tied at one spot.
3. The bar tips down on the heavy side.
4. By sliding the string toward the heavy side.
5. So the maker can check that the mobile still balances after each one.
6. A soft breeze moving the air.

Square: A Mobile Is a Balancing Act

Harder · 172 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. From the ceiling.
2. A string tied at a single spot.
3. The bar tips down toward the heavy side.
4. By sliding the string closer to the heavy side.
5. Each new piece changes the weight, so the mobile might tip again.
6. A gentle breeze.