Name: _____ Date: _____

Barnacles: Rock Dwellers Between the Tides

Circle group

Walk on a rocky shore at low tide. You may see small gray cones on the stones. They look like rock. But they are barnacles, and they are alive.

A young barnacle swims in the sea. Then it picks a spot and glues itself down. It never moves again. Hard plates grow around it. They make a little house.

At low tide, the sun and wind could dry the barnacle. So it shuts its plates. A bit of water stays inside.

When the tide comes back, the plates open. The barnacle waves feathery legs in the water. The legs sweep tiny bits of food into its mouth.

A barnacle cannot walk to food. It waits for the sea to bring it.

Questions

1. What do barnacles look like at low tide?

_____

_____

2. How does a young barnacle pick a home?

_____

_____

3. What does a barnacle do at low tide?

_____

_____

4. What do the feathery legs do?

_____

_____

5. Why does a barnacle shut its plates at low tide?

_____

_____

6. Why does a barnacle wait for the sea to bring its food?

_____

_____

Words to know

barnacles: small sea animals that glue themselves to rocks
tide: the rise and fall of the sea each day
plates: hard flat pieces that cover an animal's body
feathery: soft and thin, like the parts of a feather
shore: the land at the edge of the sea

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: _____

Barnacles: Rock Dwellers Between the Tides

Triangle group

Walk along a rocky shore at low tide and you may see small gray cones stuck to the stones. Many people think they are bits of rock. They are really barnacles, and they are alive.

A young barnacle swims in the sea for a while. Then it finds a good spot and glues itself down headfirst. It never moves again. Hard plates grow around its body to make a little house.

When the tide is out, the barnacle faces danger. The sun and wind could dry it out. So it closes its plates tight and keeps a bit of water inside.

When the tide comes back, the plates open. A barnacle sticks out feathery legs and waves them in the water. The legs sweep tiny bits of food into its mouth.

A barnacle cannot walk to its dinner, so it waits for the sea to deliver it.

Questions

1. What do barnacles look like at low tide?

_____

_____

2. How does a young barnacle choose a home?

_____

_____

3. What does a barnacle do when the tide is out?

_____

_____

4. What do the feathery legs do?

_____

_____

5. Why does a barnacle close its plates at low tide?

_____

_____

6. Why does a barnacle wait for the sea to deliver its dinner?

_____

_____

Words to know

barnacles: small sea animals that glue themselves to rocks
tide: the rise and fall of the sea each day
plates: hard flat pieces that cover an animal's body
feathery: soft and thin, like the parts of a feather
shore: the land at the edge of the sea

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: _____

Barnacles: Rock Dwellers Between the Tides

Square group

If you stroll along a rocky shore at low tide, you may notice small gray cones clinging to the stones. Many people assume they are pieces of rock, but they are actually barnacles, and every one of them is alive.

A young barnacle swims freely in the sea for a short while. Eventually it locates a suitable spot and glues itself down headfirst, and after that it never moves again. Hard plates grow around its body and form a little house.

When the tide goes out, the barnacle faces real danger, because the sun and the wind could dry it out. To protect itself, it closes its plates tightly and keeps a small amount of water inside.

When the tide returns, the plates open, and the barnacle sticks out feathery legs and waves them through the water. The legs sweep tiny bits of food into its mouth.

Since a barnacle cannot walk to its dinner, it waits patiently for the sea to deliver it.

Questions

1. What can you see clinging to stones at low tide?

_____

_____

2. How does a young barnacle settle on its home?

_____

_____

3. How does a barnacle protect itself when the tide goes out?

_____

_____

4. What is the job of the feathery legs?

_____

_____

5. Why must a barnacle close its plates at low tide?

_____

_____

6. Why must a barnacle wait for the sea to deliver its dinner?

_____

_____

Words to know

barnacles: small sea animals that glue themselves to rocks
tide: the rise and fall of the sea each day
plates: hard flat pieces that cover an animal's body
feathery: soft and thin, like the parts of a feather
shore: the land at the edge of the sea

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: Barnacles: Rock Dwellers Between the Tides

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

Circle: Barnacles: Rock Dwellers Between the Tides

Easier · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Small gray cones on the rocks.
2. It picks a spot and glues itself down.
3. It shuts its plates and keeps a bit of water inside.
4. They sweep tiny bits of food into its mouth.
5. So it does not dry out in the sun and wind.
6. It is glued down and cannot move to find food.

Triangle: Barnacles: Rock Dwellers Between the Tides

This passage · 147 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. Small gray cones stuck to the rocks.
2. It finds a good spot and glues itself down headfirst.
3. It closes its plates tight and keeps a bit of water inside.
4. They sweep tiny bits of food into the barnacle's mouth.
5. To keep from drying out in the sun and wind.
6. It is glued in place and cannot move to find food.

Square: Barnacles: Rock Dwellers Between the Tides

Harder · 164 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.3

1. Small gray cones that are really barnacles.
2. It finds a suitable spot and glues itself down headfirst.
3. It closes its plates tightly and keeps a small amount of water inside.
4. They sweep tiny bits of food into the barnacle's mouth.
5. The sun and wind could dry it out.
6. It is glued in one place and cannot travel to find food.