Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Bookbinder Sews a Book Together

Circle group

A bookbinder makes books by hand. She does not print the pages. She joins them so they stay put.

First, she folds paper in half. She puts a few folded sheets inside each other. This stack is called a signature. A book can have many signatures.

Next, she sews each signature along the fold. She uses a needle and strong thread. The thread links the stacks. Now the pages will not fall out.

Then she glues the back edge. It is called the spine. Last, she adds a stiff cover made of cardboard and cloth.

Bookbinders fix old books, too. A cover may tear. A page may come loose. The bookbinder mends it. Then people can read the book for years.

Questions

1. What does a bookbinder do?

_____

_____

2. What is a stack of folded sheets called?

_____

_____

3. What does she use to sew the stacks?

_____

_____

4. What is the back edge of a book called?

_____

_____

5. Why does the thread link one stack to the next?

_____

_____

6. Why do bookbinders fix old books?

_____

_____

Words to know

signature: a stack of folded sheets that are sewn together
spine: the back edge of a book where the pages are held

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: _____

How a Bookbinder Sews a Book Together

Triangle group

A bookbinder makes books by hand. She does not print the pages. She puts them together so they stay together for a long time.

First, she folds sheets of paper in half. She stacks a few folded sheets inside one another. Each stack is called a signature. A book may have many signatures.

Next, she sews each signature along the fold. She uses a needle and strong thread. The thread links one signature to the next, so the pages cannot fall out.

Then she glues the back edge, which is called the spine. Last, she covers the book with stiff cardboard and cloth or leather.

Bookbinders also fix old books. A cover may be torn or a page may come loose. The bookbinder repairs it with care, so people can keep reading the book for years.

Questions

1. What does a bookbinder do?

_____

_____

2. What is a stack of folded sheets called?

_____

_____

3. What does she use to sew the signatures?

_____

_____

4. What is the back edge of a book called?

_____

_____

5. Why does the thread link one signature to the next?

_____

_____

6. Why do bookbinders fix old books?

_____

_____

Words to know

signature: a stack of folded sheets that are sewn together
spine: the back edge of a book where the pages are held
leather: a strong material made from animal skin
repairs: fixes something that is broken

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: _____

How a Bookbinder Sews a Book Together

Square group

A bookbinder constructs books entirely by hand. She does not print the pages. Instead, she assembles them so that they will hold together for a very long time.

To begin, she folds sheets of paper in half and nests several of the folded sheets inside one another. Each nested stack is known as a signature, and a single book may contain a great many of them.

After that, she sews every signature along its fold with a needle and strong thread. The thread connects one signature to the next, which prevents the pages from falling out.

Next, she glues the back edge, which is called the spine. Finally, she encloses the whole book in a cover of stiff cardboard and cloth or leather.

Bookbinders also repair old books. A cover may be torn, or a page may have come loose. The bookbinder mends the damage carefully, so that people can continue to read the book for many years.

Questions

1. What does a bookbinder do?

_____

_____

2. What is each nested stack of folded sheets called?

_____

_____

3. What does she use to sew the signatures?

_____

_____

4. What is the back edge of a book called?

_____

_____

5. Why does the thread connect one signature to the next?

_____

6. Why do bookbinders repair old books?

Words to know

signature: a stack of folded sheets that are sewn together
spine: the back edge of a book where the pages are held
leather: a strong material made from animal skin

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: How a Bookbinder Sews a Book Together

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

Circle: How a Bookbinder Sews a Book Together

Easier · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. She puts pages together to make a book by hand.
2. A signature.
3. A needle and strong thread.
4. The spine.
5. So the pages will not fall out.
6. So people can read them for years.

Triangle: How a Bookbinder Sews a Book Together

This passage · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. She puts the pages together to make a book by hand.
2. A signature.
3. A needle and strong thread.
4. The spine.
5. So the pages cannot fall out.
6. So people can keep reading them for years.

Square: How a Bookbinder Sews a Book Together

Harder · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. She assembles the pages by hand to make a book that holds together.
2. A signature.
3. A needle and strong thread.
4. The spine.
5. It prevents the pages from falling out.
6. So that people can continue to read them for many years.