Name: _____ Date: _____

The Chess Knight Moves in an L

Circle group

Owen joined the chess club. His big sister said chess was easy. It was not. The knight was the strangest piece. It did not go straight. It jumped in the shape of an L.

"I put it in the wrong place," Owen said.

Mrs. Alvarez ran the club. "Say it out loud," she said. "Two steps forward, one step to the side."

Owen said it as he moved the knight. He did it again. Soon he drew L shapes in the air while he waited for lunch.

At the next meeting, Owen played Felix. Felix left his queen alone. Owen's knight jumped over two pieces and took it. Felix's eyes went wide.

"How did you do that?" he asked.

"It is just an L," said Owen.

Questions

1. Why was the knight hard for Owen?

_____

_____

2. Who ran the chess club?

_____

_____

3. What did Mrs. Alvarez tell Owen to say?

_____

_____

4. What did Owen do while he waited for lunch?

_____

_____

5. Why did Felix's eyes go wide?

_____

_____

6. What helped Owen get better?

_____

_____

Words to know

chess: a board game where players move pieces to trap the other king
knight: a chess piece shaped like a horse's head
club: a group that meets to do something they enjoy

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 Chess Knight Moves in an L

Triangle group

Owen joined the chess club because his big sister said it was easy. It was not easy. The knight, the little horse piece, was the strangest of all. It did not move straight or on a slant. It jumped in the shape of the letter L.

"I keep putting it in the wrong place," Owen said sadly.

Mrs. Alvarez, who ran the club, smiled. "Try this. Say it out loud. Two steps forward, one step to the side."

Owen picked up the knight and said it as he moved. "Two forward, one over." He did it again. And again. Soon he was drawing little L shapes in the air with his finger while he waited for lunch.

At the next meeting, Owen played against a boy named Felix. When Felix left his queen alone, Owen's knight hopped over two pieces and captured it. Felix's eyes went wide.

"How did you do that?" Felix asked.

"It is just an L," said Owen, and he grinned.

Questions

1. Why was the knight hard for Owen?

_____

_____

2. Who ran the chess club?

_____

_____

3. What did Mrs. Alvarez tell Owen to say out loud?

_____

_____

4. What did Owen do while waiting for lunch?

_____

_____

5. Why did Felix's eyes go wide?

_____

_____

6. What helped Owen get better at chess?

_____

_____

Words to know

chess: a board game where players move pieces to trap the other king
knight: a chess piece shaped like a horse's head
slant: a sloping line that goes up or down at an angle
captured: took a piece from the other player
club: a group that meets to do something they enjoy

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 Chess Knight Moves in an L

Square group

Owen joined the chess club because his big sister had assured him that chess was easy. It turned out to be nothing of the sort. The knight, the little horse piece, was the most puzzling of all, because it did not move in a straight line or along a slant. Instead, it jumped in the shape of the letter L.

"I keep putting it in the wrong place," Owen admitted sadly.

Mrs. Alvarez, who supervised the club, smiled warmly. "Try this technique. Say the move out loud as you make it. Two steps forward, then one step to the side."

Owen picked up the knight and repeated the words as he moved it. "Two forward, one over." He did it again, and then again. Before long, he was tracing little L shapes in the air with his finger while he stood in the lunch line.

At the next meeting, Owen played against a boy named Felix. When Felix carelessly left his queen unprotected, Owen's knight leaped over two pieces and captured it. Felix's eyes widened in astonishment.

"How on earth did you do that?" Felix asked.

"It is just an L," Owen replied, grinning.

Questions

1. Why did Owen find the knight so puzzling?

_____

_____

2. Who supervised the chess club?

_____

_____

3. What technique did Mrs. Alvarez suggest?

_____

_____

4. What did Owen trace in the air while he stood in the lunch line?

_____

_____

5. Why did Felix's eyes widen in astonishment?

_____

_____

6. What helped Owen improve at chess?

_____

_____

Words to know

chess: a board game where players move pieces to trap the other king
knight: a chess piece shaped like a horse's head
slant: a sloping line that goes up or down at an angle
captured: took a piece from the other player
club: a group that meets to do something they enjoy

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 Chess Knight Moves in an L

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

Circle: The Chess Knight Moves in an L

Easier · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.9

1. It moved in the shape of an L.
2. Mrs. Alvarez.
3. Two steps forward, one step to the side.
4. He drew L shapes in the air.
5. He was surprised that Owen took his queen.
6. Saying the move out loud and practicing.

Triangle: The Chess Knight Moves in an L

This passage · 164 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. It moved in the shape of the letter L, which was different from the other pieces.
2. Mrs. Alvarez.
3. Two steps forward, one step to the side.
4. He drew little L shapes in the air with his finger.
5. He was surprised that Owen's knight jumped over pieces and captured his queen.
6. Saying the move out loud and practicing it again and again.

Square: The Chess Knight Moves in an L

Harder · 194 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. It moved in the shape of the letter L, unlike the other pieces.
2. Mrs. Alvarez.
3. Saying the move out loud: two steps forward, then one step to the side.
4. Little L shapes with his finger.
5. He did not expect Owen's knight to leap over pieces and capture his queen.
6. Repeating the move out loud and practicing it many times.