Name: _____ Date: _____

Cleanup Day at Willow Creek

Circle group

Last spring, neighbors saw that Willow Creek was full of litter. Bottles were in the water. Bags were stuck in the reeds. It was hard on the ducks and fish. So the neighbors made a plan.

First, they asked the town for help. The town lent gloves, trash bags and a truck. Then they put a notice up at the library. Families signed up.

On cleanup day, about forty people came. Grown-ups led small teams. Some picked up trash on the bank. Others took bags to the truck. Children stayed on dry ground. They told a grown-up if they found anything sharp.

By lunch, the creek looked better. The neighbors had a picnic.

Now people keep litter off the ground. A creek is cleaner when everyone helps a little.

Questions

1. What was wrong with Willow Creek?

_____

_____

2. What did the town lend?

_____

_____

3. How did families learn about the cleanup?

_____

_____

4. Where did the children stay?

_____

_____

5. Why did children tell a grown-up about sharp things?

_____

_____

6. What did the neighbors learn?

_____

_____

Words to know

litter: trash left lying on the ground
notice: a sign or paper that gives information
bank: the land along the edge of a creek

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: _____

Cleanup Day at Willow Creek

Triangle group

Last spring, neighbors noticed that Willow Creek was full of litter. There were bottles in the water and bags stuck in the reeds. The litter was hard on the ducks and fish. So the neighbors made a plan.

First, they asked the town for help. The town agreed to lend gloves, trash bags and a pickup truck. Next, they put up a notice at the library, and families signed up to come.

On cleanup day, about forty people showed up. Grown-ups led small teams. Each team had a job. Some picked up trash along the bank. Others carried full bags to the truck. Children stayed on dry ground, and they told a grown-up when they found anything sharp or strange.

By lunch, the creek looked much better. The neighbors had a picnic to celebrate.

Now many people take care to keep litter off the ground. A creek is cleaner when everybody does a small part, and volunteers showed that.

Questions

1. What was wrong with Willow Creek?

_____

_____

2. What did the town lend to the neighbors?

_____

_____

3. How did families learn about cleanup day?

_____

_____

4. Where did the children stay during the cleanup?

_____

_____

5. Why did the children tell a grown-up about anything sharp?

_____

_____

6. What do you think the neighbors learned from the cleanup?

_____

_____

Words to know

litter: trash left lying on the ground
volunteers: people who help without being paid
notice: a sign or paper that gives information
bank: the land along the edge of a creek
celebrate: to do something fun to mark a good moment

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: _____

Cleanup Day at Willow Creek

Square group

Last spring, residents noticed that Willow Creek had become full of litter. Bottles floated in the water, and plastic bags were tangled in the reeds. The mess was hard on the ducks and fish that depend on the creek, so the neighbors decided to make a plan.

First, they asked the town for assistance. The town agreed to lend gloves, trash bags and a pickup truck. Next, the neighbors posted a notice at the library, and many families signed up to join them.

On cleanup day, roughly forty people arrived. Grown-ups guided small teams, and each team had its own job. Some people collected trash along the bank, while others carried the full bags to the truck. Children stayed on dry ground, and they told a grown-up whenever they found anything sharp or strange.

By lunchtime, the creek looked far better, and the neighbors celebrated with a picnic.

Now many people take extra care to keep litter off the ground. A creek stays cleaner when everybody does a small part, and the volunteers proved it.

Questions

1. What problem did the neighbors notice at Willow Creek?

_____

_____

2. What did the town agree to lend?

_____

_____

3. How did families find out about cleanup day?

_____

_____

4. Where did the children stay during the cleanup?

_____

_____

5. Why did the children tell a grown-up when they found something sharp?

_____

_____

6. What lesson did the volunteers prove?

_____

_____

Words to know

litter: trash left lying on the ground
volunteers: people who help without being paid
notice: a sign or paper that gives information
bank: the land along the edge of a creek
celebrate: to do something fun to mark a good moment

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: Cleanup Day at Willow Creek

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

Circle: Cleanup Day at Willow Creek

Easier · 131 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. It was full of litter, such as bottles and bags.
2. Gloves, trash bags and a truck.
3. A notice at the library, and they signed up.
4. On dry ground.
5. A grown-up could pick them up safely.
6. A creek is cleaner when everyone helps a little.

Triangle: Cleanup Day at Willow Creek

This passage · 161 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. It was full of litter, such as bottles and bags.
2. Gloves, trash bags and a pickup truck.
3. A notice was put up at the library, and families signed up.
4. On dry ground.
5. A grown-up could pick it up safely so the children would not get hurt.
6. A creek is cleaner when everybody does a small part.

Square: Cleanup Day at Willow Creek

Harder · 177 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. It was full of litter, such as bottles and plastic bags.
2. Gloves, trash bags and a pickup truck.
3. The neighbors posted a notice at the library, and families signed up.
4. On dry ground.
5. A grown-up could remove it safely, so the children would not be hurt.
6. A creek stays cleaner when everybody does a small part.