Name: _____ Date: _____

The Compass That Pointed at the Cooler

Circle group

On their first camping trip, Dara and her dad set up the tent by a quiet lake. Dara had a new compass. She knew the needle should point north.

She put the compass on the picnic table. The needle swung and pointed at the cooler. She moved to the other side. The needle still pointed at the cooler.

"Dad, north is stuck on our lunch!" she said.

Her dad laughed. He lifted the cooler and showed her the latch. It was shiny metal. It had a small magnet to keep the lid shut.

"The magnet pulled the needle," he said. "Let's try somewhere else."

Dara took the compass to a flat rock by the water. This time the needle held still. It pointed to the hill across the lake. "That must be north," she said. At dusk, the first star came out above that hill.

Questions

1. Where did they set up the tent?

_____

_____

2. What did the needle point at on the table?

_____

_____

3. What was in the latch?

_____

_____

4. Where did Dara try the compass again?

_____

_____

5. Why did the needle point at the cooler?

_____

_____

6. Why did the compass work better by the water?

_____

_____

Words to know

compass: a tool with a needle that shows which way is north
magnet: a piece of metal that pulls on some other metals
latch: a small catch that keeps a lid or door shut

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 Compass That Pointed at the Cooler

Triangle group

On their first camping trip, Dara and her dad pitched the tent beside a quiet lake. Dara had brought a brand new compass. She knew the needle should always point north.

She set the compass on the picnic table. The needle swung around and pointed at the cooler. She moved to the other side of the table. The needle swung again, and it still pointed at the cooler.

"Dad, the north is stuck on our lunch!" she cried.

Her dad laughed and lifted the cooler. He turned it over and showed her the latch. It was shiny metal, and it held a small magnet that kept the lid closed.

"The magnet pulled the needle," he said. "Let's try again somewhere else."

Dara carried the compass far from the cooler, out to a flat rock by the water. This time, the needle held steady. It pointed straight at the hill across the lake. "That must be north," she said. At dusk, the first star came out right above that hill.

Questions

1. Where did Dara and her dad pitch their tent?

_____

_____

2. What did the compass needle point at on the picnic table?

_____

_____

3. What was inside the cooler's latch?

_____

_____

4. Where did Dara take the compass to try again?

_____

_____

5. Why did the needle point at the cooler?

_____

_____

6. Why did the needle work better by the water?

_____

_____

Words to know

compass: a tool with a needle that shows which way is north
magnet: a piece of metal that pulls on some other metals
latch: a small catch that keeps a lid or door shut
pitched: set up a tent in a place
steady: not moving or shaking

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 Compass That Pointed at the Cooler

Square group

On their very first camping trip, Dara and her father pitched the tent beside a peaceful lake. Dara had brought along a brand new compass, and she knew its needle was supposed to point north at all times.

She placed the compass on the picnic table, and the needle swung around until it pointed directly at the cooler. She walked to the opposite side of the table, and the needle swung again, still aimed at the cooler.

"Dad, north is stuck on our lunch!" she exclaimed.

Her father chuckled, lifted the cooler, and turned it over to show her the latch. It was made of shiny metal and contained a small magnet that kept the lid firmly closed.

"The magnet is pulling on the needle," he explained. "Let's try again somewhere else."

Dara carried the compass far from the cooler, out to a flat rock beside the water. This time, the needle held perfectly steady and pointed toward the hill across the lake. "That must be north," she said. At dusk, the first star appeared right above that hill.

Questions

1. Where did Dara and her father pitch their tent?

_____

_____

2. What did the needle point at when Dara set the compass on the table?

_____

_____

3. What was hidden inside the cooler's latch?

_____

_____

4. Where did Dara carry the compass to try again?

_____

_____

5. What made the needle swing toward the cooler?

_____

_____

6. Why did the compass work properly beside the water?

_____

_____

Words to know

compass: a tool with a needle that shows which way is north
magnet: a piece of metal that pulls on some other metals
latch: a small catch that keeps a lid or door shut
pitched: set up a tent in a place
steady: not moving or shaking

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 Compass That Pointed at the Cooler

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

Circle: The Compass That Pointed at the Cooler

Easier · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. By a quiet lake.
2. The cooler.
3. A small magnet.
4. On a flat rock by the water.
5. The magnet in the latch pulled the needle.
6. It was far from the magnet, so nothing pulled the needle.

Triangle: The Compass That Pointed at the Cooler

This passage · 169 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. Beside a quiet lake.
2. The cooler.
3. A small magnet.
4. To a flat rock by the water.
5. The magnet in the latch pulled on the needle.
6. It was far from the magnet, so nothing was pulling it.

Square: The Compass That Pointed at the Cooler

Harder · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Beside a peaceful lake.
2. The cooler.
3. A small magnet.
4. To a flat rock beside the water.
5. The magnet in the latch pulled on the needle.
6. It was far from the magnet, so nothing was pulling on the needle.