Name: _____ Date: _____

Cutting Ice from the Pond for Summer

Circle group

Today we keep food cold in a refrigerator. A long time ago, many families had none. How did they keep milk and butter cool in summer? They used ice. The ice came from a frozen pond or lake.

In the middle of winter, the ice was thick. Workers went out with saws. They cut the ice into big blocks. Horses pulled the blocks to an icehouse. Inside, the blocks were packed in sawdust. The sawdust worked like a blanket, so the ice melted slowly. Some ice lasted until summer.

Then a wagon brought ice to homes. The driver set a block in an icebox. An icebox was a wooden cabinet with a space for ice. The cold from the ice kept food fresh.

A family had to buy new ice often. The block kept melting.

Questions

1. Where did the ice come from?

_____

_____

2. What did workers use to cut the ice?

_____

_____

3. What was packed around the blocks in the icehouse?

_____

_____

4. What was an icebox?

_____

_____

5. Why did workers cut the ice in the middle of winter?

_____

_____

6. Why did a family have to buy new ice again and again?

_____

_____

Words to know

refrigerator: a machine that keeps food cold
blocks: big, thick pieces of something solid
icehouse: a building where ice was stored
sawdust: tiny bits of wood left when wood is cut
icebox: a cabinet cooled by a block of ice

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: _____

Cutting Ice from the Pond for Summer

Triangle group

Today we keep food cold in a refrigerator. A little over a hundred years ago, many families had no such thing. So how did they keep milk and butter cool in the summer? They used ice, and the ice came from a frozen pond or lake.

In the middle of winter, when the ice was thick, workers went out with saws. They cut the ice into big blocks. Horses pulled the blocks to a special building called an icehouse. Inside, the blocks were packed in sawdust. The sawdust worked like a blanket, so the ice melted very slowly. Some ice stayed frozen until the next summer.

Then an ice delivery wagon visited homes. The driver carried a block into the kitchen and set it in an icebox. An icebox was a wooden cabinet with a space for the ice at the top. The cold air from the ice kept the food fresh.

A family had to buy new ice often, because the block kept melting.

Questions

1. Where did the ice come from?

_____

_____

2. What did workers use to cut the ice?

_____

_____

3. What was packed around the blocks in the icehouse?

_____

_____

4. What was an icebox?

_____

_____

5. Why did workers cut the ice in the middle of winter?

_____

_____

6. Why did a family have to buy new ice again and again?

_____

_____

Words to know

refrigerator: a machine that keeps food cold
blocks: big, thick pieces of something solid
icehouse: a building where ice was stored
sawdust: tiny bits of wood left when wood is cut
icebox: a cabinet cooled by a block of ice

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: _____

Cutting Ice from the Pond for Summer

Square group

Today we preserve our food in a refrigerator, but a little more than a hundred years ago, many families owned nothing of the kind. How, then, did they keep milk and butter cool throughout the summer? They relied on ice, which was harvested from a frozen pond or lake.

In the depths of winter, when the ice was thick enough to be safe, workers went out with large saws and cut it into enormous blocks. Horses hauled the blocks to a special building called an icehouse, where they were packed tightly in sawdust. The sawdust acted like a blanket, so the ice melted extremely slowly, and some of it stayed frozen until the following summer.

Eventually, an ice delivery wagon made its rounds. The driver carried a block into each kitchen and set it inside an icebox, a wooden cabinet with a compartment for the ice at the top. The cold air from the ice kept the food fresh.

Families had to keep buying new ice, because the block was always melting.

Questions

1. Where was the ice harvested from?

_____

_____

2. What did workers use to cut the ice?

_____

_____

3. What were the blocks packed in at the icehouse?

_____

_____

4. What was an icebox?

_____

_____

5. Why did workers cut the ice in the depths of winter?

_____

_____

6. Why did families have to keep buying new ice?

_____

_____

Words to know

refrigerator: a machine that keeps food cold
blocks: big, thick pieces of something solid
icehouse: a building where ice was stored
sawdust: tiny bits of wood left when wood is cut
icebox: a cabinet cooled by a block of ice

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: Cutting Ice from the Pond for Summer

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

Circle: Cutting Ice from the Pond for Summer

Easier · 135 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. A frozen pond or lake.
2. Saws.
3. Sawdust.
4. A wooden cabinet with a space for ice to keep food cold.
5. That is when the ice was thickest.
6. The block of ice kept melting.

Triangle: Cutting Ice from the Pond for Summer

This passage · 165 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. A frozen pond or lake.
2. Saws.
3. Sawdust.
4. A wooden cabinet with a space for ice, used to keep food cold.
5. That is when the ice was thickest.
6. The block of ice kept melting.

Square: Cutting Ice from the Pond for Summer

Harder · 172 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. A frozen pond or lake.
2. Large saws.
3. Sawdust.
4. A wooden cabinet with a compartment for ice, used to keep food cold.
5. That is when the ice was thick enough and safe.
6. The block of ice was always melting.