Name: _____ Date: _____

Dot the Snail Delivers a Birthday Card

Circle group

Dot was a snail who took the mail to homes. She was the slowest mail carrier in the meadow. People said grass grew taller while she crossed a lawn.

One Monday, the postmaster gave Dot a birthday card for a mouse named Milo. "His birthday is on Friday," he said.

Dot left at dawn. By noon she had slid as far as a tulip. By supper she had slid to the next tulip. The leaves turned orange. Snow came and went. Birds flew south and came back.

At last Dot knocked on Milo's door. "Your card," she panted. Milo held a cake with a new candle. "Right on time for my next birthday!" he said. "It took you a year."

After that, the postmaster let Dot ride on a beetle. The mail got there fast, and Dot liked the view.

Questions

1. Who was the card for?

_____

_____

2. When was Milo's birthday to be?

_____

_____

3. How far had Dot gone by noon?

_____

_____

4. How long did the trip take?

_____

_____

5. How did the mail get faster after that?

_____

_____

6. Why does the story say birds flew south and came back?

_____

_____

Words to know

postmaster: the person in charge of the mail
meadow: a grassy field
dawn: the first light of the morning
panted: breathed hard and fast after working
beetle: an insect with a hard shell on its back

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: _____

Dot the Snail Delivers a Birthday Card

Triangle group

Dot was a snail who carried the mail. She was the slowest mail carrier in the whole meadow. Folks said grass grew taller while she crossed a lawn.

One Monday, the postmaster handed Dot a birthday card for a mouse named Milo. "His birthday is on Friday," he said.

Dot set off at dawn. By noon she had slid as far as a tulip. By supper she had slid as far as the next tulip. The leaves turned orange. Snow came and went. Birds flew south and came back again.

At last Dot knocked on Milo's door. "Your card," she panted. Milo was holding a cake with a new candle on top. "Right on time for my next birthday!" he said. "It only took you a year."

After that, the postmaster let Dot ride on the back of a beetle. The mail got there much faster, and Dot enjoyed the view.

Questions

1. Who was the birthday card for?

_____

_____

2. When was Milo's birthday supposed to be?

_____

_____

3. How far did Dot get by noon?

_____

_____

4. How long did the trip really take?

_____

_____

5. How did the postmaster make the mail faster after that?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say that birds flew south and came back?

_____

_____

Words to know

postmaster: the person in charge of the mail
meadow: a grassy field
dawn: the first light of the morning
panted: breathed hard and fast after working
beetle: an insect with a hard shell on its back

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: _____

Dot the Snail Delivers a Birthday Card

Square group

Dot was a snail who delivered the mail, and she was easily the slowest mail carrier in the whole meadow. Folks joked that the grass grew taller while she crossed a single lawn.

One Monday, the postmaster handed Dot a birthday card addressed to a mouse named Milo. "His birthday is on Friday," he reminded her.

Dot set off at dawn. By noon she had slid as far as a tulip, and by supper she had reached the next tulip. The leaves turned orange, snow came and went, and the birds flew south and came back again.

At long last, Dot knocked on Milo's door. "Your card," she panted. Milo was holding a cake with a brand new candle on top. "Right on time for my next birthday!" he said. "It only took you a year."

After that, the postmaster allowed Dot to ride on the back of a beetle. The mail arrived much faster, and Dot enjoyed the view.

Questions

1. Who was the birthday card addressed to?

_____

_____

2. When was Milo's birthday supposed to be?

_____

_____

3. How far had Dot slid by noon?

_____

_____

4. How long did Dot's trip really take?

_____

_____

5. How did the postmaster make the mail arrive faster afterward?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer mention that the birds flew south and came back again?

_____

_____

Words to know

postmaster: the person in charge of the mail
meadow: a grassy field
dawn: the first light of the morning
panted: breathed hard and fast after working
beetle: an insect with a hard shell on its back

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: Dot the Snail Delivers a Birthday Card

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

Circle: Dot the Snail Delivers a Birthday Card

Easier · 140 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. A mouse named Milo.
2. On Friday.
3. As far as a tulip.
4. About a year.
5. Dot rode on the back of a beetle.
6. To show how slow Dot was, because a whole year went by.

Triangle: Dot the Snail Delivers a Birthday Card

This passage · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. A mouse named Milo.
2. On Friday.
3. As far as a tulip.
4. About a year.
5. He let Dot ride on the back of a beetle.
6. To show how very slow Dot was, since a whole year went by.

Square: Dot the Snail Delivers a Birthday Card

Harder · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. A mouse named Milo.
2. On Friday.
3. As far as a tulip.
4. About a year.
5. He allowed Dot to ride on the back of a beetle.
6. To show how very slow Dot was, since a whole year passed.