Name: _____ Date: _____

Watching for Smoke from a Mountain Tower

Circle group

Some forests have tall lookout towers. A tiny room sits at the top. It has windows on all sides. A fire lookout works there when the weather is dry.

Her job is to watch. She looks over the hills for a thin line of smoke. She looks many times a day. Smoke can be seen from far away.

When she sees smoke, she uses a map table. A pointer shows which way the smoke is. She checks the map to find where the fire may be.

Then she calls the fire crew on the radio. She tells them the spot. They go there fast.

She also notes the weather. Wind and dry air help a fire spread. The crew uses her notes to plan.

Questions

1. Where does a fire lookout work?

_____

_____

2. What is the lookout watching for?

_____

_____

3. What does the map table show?

_____

_____

4. How does the lookout tell the fire crew?

_____

_____

5. Why does the tower room have windows on all sides?

_____

_____

6. Why does the lookout write down the weather?

_____

_____

Words to know

lookout: a person or place used for watching
crew: a group of people who work together

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: _____

Watching for Smoke from a Mountain Tower

Triangle group

Some forests have tall lookout towers. A tiny room sits at the top, with windows on every side. A fire lookout lives and works there during the dry months.

The lookout's job is to watch. She scans the hills for a thin line of smoke. She looks many times each day. A small puff of smoke can be seen from miles away.

When she spots smoke, she uses a special map table. A pointer on the table shows which direction the smoke is in. She can check the map to see where the fire might be.

Then she calls the fire crew on the radio. She tells them the spot, so they can get there fast.

A lookout also keeps track of the weather. Wind and dry air can help a fire spread. The crew can use her notes to plan their day.

Questions

1. Where does a fire lookout work?

_____

_____

2. What is the lookout watching for?

_____

_____

3. What does the special map table show?

_____

_____

4. How does the lookout tell the fire crew?

_____

_____

5. Why is the tower room built with windows on every side?

_____

_____

6. Why does the lookout write down the weather?

_____

_____

Words to know

lookout: a person or place used for watching
scans: looks over an area slowly and with care
direction: the way something is, such as north or south
crew: a group of people who work together

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: _____

Watching for Smoke from a Mountain Tower

Square group

Certain forests have tall lookout towers, with a tiny room at the top that has windows on every side. A fire lookout lives and works there throughout the dry months of the year.

The lookout's responsibility is to keep watch. She scans the surrounding hills for a thin line of smoke, and she does this many times each day. Even a small puff of smoke can be spotted from miles away.

When she notices smoke, she turns to a special map table. A pointer on the table indicates which direction the smoke lies in, and she can consult the map to work out where the fire might be burning.

Then she contacts the fire crew by radio and gives them the location, so that they can reach it quickly.

A lookout also records the weather. Wind and dry air can help a fire spread, so the crew can rely on her notes when they plan their day.

Questions

1. Where does a fire lookout work?

_____

_____

2. What is the lookout watching for?

_____

_____

3. What does the pointer on the map table indicate?

_____

_____

4. How does the lookout contact the fire crew?

_____

_____

5. Why is the tower room built with windows on every side?

_____

6. Why does the lookout record the weather?

Words to know

lookout: a person or place used for watching
scans: looks over an area slowly and with care
direction: the way something is, such as north or south
crew: a group of people who work together

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: Watching for Smoke from a Mountain Tower

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

Circle: Watching for Smoke from a Mountain Tower

Easier · 124 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. In a small room at the top of a tall tower.
2. A line of smoke.
3. Which way the smoke is.
4. She calls them on the radio.
5. So the lookout can see the forest in every direction.
6. Wind and dry air help a fire spread, so the crew can plan.

Triangle: Watching for Smoke from a Mountain Tower

This passage · 143 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. In a small room at the top of a tall tower.
2. A line or puff of smoke.
3. The direction the smoke is in.
4. She calls them on the radio.
5. So the lookout can see the whole forest in every direction.
6. Wind and dry air help a fire spread, so the crew can use the notes to plan.

Square: Watching for Smoke from a Mountain Tower

Harder · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. In a tiny room at the top of a tall tower.
2. A thin line or small puff of smoke.
3. The direction the smoke lies in.
4. By radio.
5. So the lookout can see the whole forest in every direction.
6. Wind and dry air can help a fire spread, so the crew can use her notes to plan.