Name: _____ Date: _____

The Footprints That Only Went Up the Hill

Circle group

After the first big snow, Tess and Marcus ran to Cutler Hill. The snow was smooth and white. But a line of boot prints went from the bottom to the top.

"Somebody climbed up," said Marcus. "But no prints come down."

Tess frowned. "Did they fly?" She was joking. Marcus looked at the snow beside the prints. There was a wide, smooth stripe with two thin lines.

"Those are runner marks," he said. "From a sled!"

Tess laughed. "They climbed up and slid down. A sled leaves a track, not footprints."

They followed the stripe to the bottom. It ended by a red sled near the fence. A tag on the rope said, "Please share. From the Ortiz family."

Tess and Marcus took the sled up. Then they whooshed down.

Questions

1. What did the children see on Cutler Hill?

_____

_____

2. What was missing in the snow?

_____

_____

3. What marks were next to the prints?

_____

_____

4. What did the tag say?

_____

_____

5. How did the person get down without leaving prints?

_____

_____

6. Why did the Ortiz family leave a sled with a tag?

_____

_____

Words to know

frowned: made a face that shows you are puzzled or unhappy
runner: a thin strip under a sled that slides over snow
stripe: a long, narrow band or line
whooshed: moved fast with a rushing sound

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 Footprints That Only Went Up the Hill

Triangle group

After the first big snow, Tess and Marcus ran to Cutler Hill. The snow lay smooth and white. But a long line of boot prints marched from the bottom of the hill to the very top.

"Somebody climbed up," said Marcus. "But there are no prints coming down."

Tess frowned. "Did they fly away?" She was joking, but Marcus took the puzzle seriously. He walked along the hill and looked closely at the snow next to the prints. Right beside them was a wide, smooth stripe with two thin lines on the sides.

"Those are runner marks," he said. "From a sled!"

Tess laughed. "Whoever climbed up must have slid back down, because a sled leaves a track instead of footprints."

They followed the stripe to the bottom. It ended near a red sled, tipped on its side by the fence. A tag tied to the rope said, "Please share. From the Ortiz family."

Tess and Marcus took the sled to the top. Then they whooshed down, leaving a brand new stripe in the snow.

Questions

1. What did Tess and Marcus see on Cutler Hill?

_____

_____

2. What was missing from the snow?

_____

_____

3. What marks were beside the boot prints?

_____

_____

4. What did the tag on the sled say?

_____

_____

5. How did the person get down the hill without leaving footprints?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think the Ortiz family left a sled with a tag?

_____

_____

Words to know

frowned: made a face that shows you are puzzled or unhappy
runner: a thin strip under a sled that slides over snow
puzzle: a problem that you have to figure out
stripe: a long, narrow band or line
whooshed: moved fast with a rushing sound

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 Footprints That Only Went Up the Hill

Square group

After the season's first big snowfall, Tess and Marcus raced to Cutler Hill. The snow lay smooth and white, except for a single line of boot prints that marched from the bottom of the hill all the way to the summit.

"Somebody climbed up here," observed Marcus. "But there are no prints coming back down."

Tess frowned. "Did they fly away?" She was only joking, but Marcus treated the puzzle seriously. He walked alongside the hill and examined the snow next to the prints. Right beside them ran a wide, smooth stripe with a thin line on each side.

"Those are runner marks," he said. "From a sled!"

Tess laughed. "Whoever climbed up simply slid back down. A sled leaves a track, not footprints."

They followed the stripe to the bottom, where it ended beside a red sled leaning against the fence. A tag tied to the rope read, "Please share. From the Ortiz family."

Tess and Marcus hauled the sled to the top of the hill. Then they whooshed down together, carving a brand new stripe in the snow.

Questions

1. What did Tess and Marcus notice on Cutler Hill?

_____

_____

2. What was missing from the snow?

_____

_____

3. What marks ran beside the boot prints?

_____

_____

4. What did the tag on the sled say?

_____

_____

5. How did the person get down the hill without leaving footprints?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think the Ortiz family left a sled with a tag?

_____

_____

Words to know

frowned: made a face that shows you are puzzled or unhappy
runner: a thin strip under a sled that slides over snow
puzzle: a problem that you have to figure out
stripe: a long, narrow band or line
whooshed: moved fast with a rushing sound

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 Footprints That Only Went Up the Hill

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

Circle: The Footprints That Only Went Up the Hill

Easier · 130 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. A line of boot prints going up.
2. Prints coming down.
3. A wide, smooth stripe with two thin lines.
4. Please share. From the Ortiz family.
5. They went down on a sled.
6. They wanted other children to use it and have fun.

Triangle: The Footprints That Only Went Up the Hill

This passage · 175 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. A line of boot prints going to the top.
2. Prints coming back down.
3. A wide, smooth stripe with two thin lines.
4. Please share. From the Ortiz family.
5. They rode down on a sled.
6. They wanted other children to use it and have fun.

Square: The Footprints That Only Went Up the Hill

Harder · 180 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. A line of boot prints going to the top.
2. Prints coming back down the hill.
3. A wide, smooth stripe with a thin line on each side.
4. Please share. From the Ortiz family.
5. They rode down on a sled.
6. They wanted other children to borrow it and enjoy the hill.