Name: _____ Date: _____

The Keeper of the Seed Vault

Circle group

Picture a library with no books. The shelves hold seeds. This place is a seed bank. A seed keeper cares for it.

Why save seeds? A farm may lose a crop in bad weather. A plant may become rare. If seeds are saved, people can plant them again.

The keeper has many jobs. She gathers seeds from plants. She dries them, because damp seeds can rot. Then she seals them in small packets. Each packet has a label. The label tells the plant's name and where the seeds came from.

The packets go in a cold room. Cold, dry air helps seeds stay alive.

Sometimes the keeper plants a few seeds as a test. If they sprout, the rest are still good.

Questions

1. What do the shelves in a seed bank hold?

_____

_____

2. Why does the keeper dry the seeds?

_____

_____

3. What does the label tell?

_____

_____

4. What kind of room do the packets go in?

_____

_____

5. Why does the keeper plant a few seeds sometimes?

_____

_____

6. How could a seed bank help if a plant became rare?

_____

_____

Words to know

seed bank: a place that saves seeds so they can be planted later
crop: plants that farmers grow for food
rare: not easy to find because there are very few
sprout: to start to grow from a seed

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 Keeper of the Seed Vault

Triangle group

Imagine a library where nothing is a book. Instead, the shelves hold seeds. This place is called a seed bank. A seed keeper takes care of it.

Why save seeds? A farm may lose a crop to bad weather. A plant may grow in only a few places and become rare. If seeds are saved, people can plant them again someday.

The keeper has many jobs. She collects seeds from plants. She dries them, because damp seeds can rot. Then she seals them in small packets and writes a label on each one. The label tells the plant's name and where the seeds came from.

The packets go into a cold room. Cold and dry air help seeds stay alive for a long time.

Now and then, the keeper plants a few seeds to test them. If they sprout, she knows the rest are still good.

Questions

1. What do the shelves in a seed bank hold?

_____

_____

2. Why does the keeper dry the seeds?

_____

_____

3. What does the label on a packet tell?

_____

_____

4. What kind of room are the packets kept in?

_____

_____

5. Why does the keeper plant a few seeds now and then?

_____

_____

6. How could a seed bank help if a plant became rare?

_____

_____

Words to know

seed bank: a place that saves seeds so they can be planted later
crop: plants that farmers grow for food
rare: not easy to find because there are very few
sprout: to start to grow from a seed

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 Keeper of the Seed Vault

Square group

Imagine a library in which nothing on the shelves is a book. Instead, the shelves hold thousands of tiny seeds. This kind of place is called a seed bank, and a seed keeper looks after it.

Why bother to save seeds? A farm can lose a crop to bad weather, and a plant that grows in only a few places may become rare. If seeds have been saved, people will be able to plant them again someday.

The keeper has many responsibilities. She gathers seeds from plants and dries them thoroughly, since damp seeds can rot. Then she seals them in small packets and writes a label on each one, which tells the plant's name and the place where the seeds came from.

The packets are stored in a cold room, because cold and dry air help seeds stay alive for a long time.

Every so often, the keeper plants a few seeds to test them. If they sprout, she knows that the rest are still good.

Questions

1. What do the shelves in a seed bank hold?

_____

_____

2. Why does the keeper dry the seeds thoroughly?

_____

_____

3. What does the label on each packet tell?

_____

_____

4. What kind of room are the packets stored in?

_____

_____

5. Why does the keeper plant a few seeds every so often?

_____

_____

6. How could a seed bank help if a plant became rare?

_____

_____

Words to know

seed bank: a place that saves seeds so they can be planted later
crop: plants that farmers grow for food
rare: not easy to find because there are very few
sprout: to start to grow from a seed

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 Keeper of the Seed Vault

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

Circle: The Keeper of the Seed Vault

Easier · 122 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. Seeds.
2. Damp seeds can rot.
3. The plant's name and where the seeds came from.
4. A cold room.
5. As a test. If they sprout, the rest are still good.
6. People could plant the saved seeds again.

Triangle: The Keeper of the Seed Vault

This passage · 146 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. Seeds.
2. Damp seeds can rot.
3. The plant's name and where the seeds came from.
4. A cold room.
5. To test them. If they sprout, the rest are still good.
6. People could plant the saved seeds again.

Square: The Keeper of the Seed Vault

Harder · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.5

1. Thousands of tiny seeds.
2. Damp seeds can rot.
3. The plant's name and the place the seeds came from.
4. A cold room.
5. To test them. If they sprout, the rest are still good.
6. People could plant the saved seeds again.