Name: _____ Date: _____

The Map That Faced Backward

Circle group

Grandma Ro drew a map for Ivy and Theo. It showed the way to Pebble Pond. It said, "Turn left at the split oak."

The cousins found the split oak. They turned left. The path ended in thick brambles. There was no pond.

"Grandma does not make mistakes," said Theo.

Ivy looked at the map. A tiny arrow in the corner pointed back to the house. "Grandma drew this at the pond," she said. "She was looking back at us!"

Theo grinned. "So her left is our right."

They went back and took the other path. Soon they heard frogs. Pebble Pond sparkled ahead. Ivy wrote one line on the map. It said, "Check which way it faces."

Questions

1. Who drew the map?

_____

_____

2. What was at the end of the first path?

_____

_____

3. What was in the corner of the map?

_____

_____

4. What did the cousins hear near the pond?

_____

_____

5. Why did the left turn go the wrong way?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ivy write a line on the map?

_____

_____

Words to know

brambles: thorny bushes that grow in tangles
split: broken or divided into two parts
sparkled: shone with little flashes of light

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 Map That Faced Backward

Triangle group

Grandma Ro drew a map for Ivy and Theo. It showed the way to Pebble Pond. At the top, she wrote, "Turn left at the split oak."

The cousins hiked past the old fence and found the split oak. They turned left, just as the map said, but the path soon ended in a thick wall of brambles. There was no pond anywhere.

"Grandma never makes mistakes," said Theo. "Maybe we missed something."

Ivy turned the map around in her hands. She noticed a tiny arrow in the corner. It pointed back toward the house. "Look," she said. "Grandma drew this while standing at the pond. She was looking back at us!"

Theo grinned. "So her left is really our right."

They went back to the oak and took the other path, and in a few minutes they heard frogs. Pebble Pond sparkled just ahead. Ivy folded the map and added one line at the bottom, in her own writing. It said, "Check which way it faces."

Questions

1. Who drew the map?

_____

_____

2. What was at the end of the first path?

_____

_____

3. What did Ivy find in the corner of the map?

_____

_____

4. What did the cousins hear when they were close to the pond?

_____

_____

5. Why did the left turn lead to the wrong place?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ivy add a line to the map?

_____

_____

Words to know

hiked: walked a long way outdoors for fun
brambles: thorny bushes that grow in tangles
split: broken or divided into two parts
noticed: saw something and paid attention to it
sparkled: shone with little flashes of light

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 Map That Faced Backward

Square group

Grandma Ro carefully drew a map for her grandchildren, Ivy and Theo, showing the route to Pebble Pond. Near the top, she had written, "Turn left at the split oak."

The cousins hiked past the crumbling old fence and soon reached the split oak. They turned left, exactly as the map instructed, but the path ended abruptly in a thick wall of brambles. There was not a pond in sight.

"Grandma never makes mistakes," Theo declared. "We must have missed something."

Ivy rotated the map in her hands and spotted a tiny arrow in one corner. It pointed back toward the house. "Look at this," she said. "Grandma drew the map while she was standing at the pond, so she was facing us!"

Theo grinned. "That means her left is our right."

They returned to the oak and chose the other path. Within minutes, they could hear frogs croaking, and Pebble Pond sparkled just ahead. Ivy folded the map and added a line at the bottom in her own handwriting: "Check which way it faces."

Questions

1. Who drew the map for Ivy and Theo?

_____

_____

2. What was waiting at the end of the first path?

_____

_____

3. What did Ivy notice in the corner of the map?

_____

_____

4. What did the cousins hear as they got close to the pond?

_____

_____

5. Why did turning left lead the cousins to the wrong place?

_____

_____

6. Why did Ivy add a line to the bottom of the map?

_____

_____

Words to know

hiked: walked a long way outdoors for fun
brambles: thorny bushes that grow in tangles
split: broken or divided into two parts
sparkled: shone with little flashes of light

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 Map That Faced Backward

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

Circle: The Map That Faced Backward

Easier · 118 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. Grandma Ro.
2. Thick brambles.
3. A tiny arrow that pointed back to the house.
4. Frogs.
5. Grandma drew the map from the pond, so her left was their right.
6. She wanted the next person to check which way the map faces.

Triangle: The Map That Faced Backward

This passage · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. Grandma Ro.
2. A thick wall of brambles.
3. A tiny arrow pointing back toward the house.
4. Frogs.
5. Grandma drew the map looking back from the pond, so her left was their right.
6. She wanted the next person to know to check which way the map faces.

Square: The Map That Faced Backward

Harder · 175 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.1

1. Grandma Ro.
2. A thick wall of brambles.
3. A tiny arrow that pointed back toward the house.
4. Frogs croaking.
5. Grandma drew the map looking back from the pond, so her left was their right.
6. She wanted anyone who used the map next to remember to check which way it faces.