Name: _____ Date: _____

Maple Sap Is Almost Like Water

Circle group

In late winter, the days get warm, but the nights are still cold. This is the time to make maple syrup. A farmer makes a small hole in a maple tree. A tap in the hole lets sap drip into a bucket.

Maple sap looks like water. It is only a little sweet. The farmer boils the sap in a big, flat pan. Steam rises, and the water leaves. The sap gets thick, dark, and sweet.

It takes a lot of sap to make a little syrup. The tap does not hurt the tree. In spring, the farmer takes the tap out. The hole closes up, and the tree grows leaves.

Questions

1. When does a farmer collect maple sap?

_____

_____

2. What goes in the hole in the tree?

_____

_____

3. What does maple sap look like?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the sap when it boils?

_____

_____

5. How much sap does it take to make syrup?

_____

_____

6. Why might the farmer use a big, flat pan?

_____

_____

Words to know

sap: the liquid that flows inside a tree
tap: a small pipe that lets liquid drip out
syrup: a thick, sweet liquid

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: _____

Maple Sap Is Almost Like Water

Triangle group

In late winter, the days start to warm up, but the nights are still cold. This is the time to make maple syrup. A farmer drills a small hole in the trunk of a sugar maple tree. A tap in the hole lets the sap drip into a bucket.

Maple sap looks almost like water. It tastes only a little sweet. To make syrup, the farmer boils the sap in a big, flat pan. As it boils, steam rises, and the water slowly leaves. What is left gets thicker, darker, and much sweeter.

It takes a lot of sap to make a little syrup. The tree is not hurt by a small tap. In spring, the farmer pulls the tap out, and the hole closes up over time. Then the tree grows its leaves as usual.

Questions

1. When does a farmer collect maple sap?

_____

_____

2. What does the farmer put in the hole in the tree?

_____

_____

3. What does maple sap look and taste like?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the sap when it boils?

_____

_____

5. How much sap does it take to make syrup?

_____

_____

6. Why might a farmer boil the sap in a big, flat pan?

_____

Words to know

sap: the liquid that flows inside a tree
tap: a small pipe that lets liquid drip out
trunk: the thick main stem of a tree
syrup: a thick, sweet liquid

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: _____

Maple Sap Is Almost Like Water

Square group

Late winter brings warmer days, though the nights remain cold, and that is exactly the right weather for making maple syrup. A farmer drills a small hole into the trunk of a sugar maple tree and fits a tap into it, so the sap can drip steadily into a bucket.

Maple sap looks almost like plain water and tastes only faintly sweet. To turn it into syrup, the farmer boils it in a big, flat pan. As the sap bubbles, steam rises and the water slowly escapes, leaving behind a liquid that grows thicker, darker, and far sweeter.

It takes a large amount of sap to make a small amount of syrup. Fortunately, a small tap does not harm the tree. When spring arrives, the farmer removes the tap, the hole gradually closes up, and the tree grows its leaves as it always does.

Questions

1. At what time of year does a farmer gather maple sap?

_____

_____

2. What does the farmer fit into the hole in the trunk?

_____

_____

3. How does maple sap look and taste?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the sap as it boils in the pan?

_____

_____

5. How does the amount of sap compare to the amount of syrup it makes?

_____

_____

6. Why would a wide, flat pan work better than a tall, narrow pot for boiling sap?

_____

Words to know

sap: the liquid that flows inside a tree
tap: a small pipe that lets liquid drip out
trunk: the thick main stem of a tree
syrup: a thick, sweet liquid

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: Maple Sap Is Almost Like Water

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

Circle: Maple Sap Is Almost Like Water

Easier · 111 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. In late winter, when days are warm and nights are cold.
2. A tap.
3. It looks like water and is only a little sweet.
4. The water leaves as steam, and the sap gets thick, dark, and sweet.
5. A lot of sap makes a little syrup.
6. A wide pan lets steam rise fast, so the water leaves sooner.

Triangle: Maple Sap Is Almost Like Water

This passage · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. In late winter, when the days are warm and the nights are cold.
2. A tap.
3. It looks almost like water and tastes only a little sweet.
4. The water leaves as steam, and the sap gets thicker, darker, and sweeter.
5. A lot of sap makes a little syrup.
6. A wide pan lets the steam rise fast, so the water leaves sooner.

Square: Maple Sap Is Almost Like Water

Harder · 144 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. In late winter, when the days are warmer but the nights are cold.
2. A tap.
3. It looks almost like plain water and tastes only faintly sweet.
4. The water escapes as steam, and the sap grows thicker, darker, and sweeter.
5. A large amount of sap makes only a small amount of syrup.
6. A wide pan lets more steam rise at once, so the water leaves faster.