Name: _____ Date: _____

Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain

Circle group

Look at the edge of a street. You may see a metal grate. This is a storm drain. When it rains, water runs down the street and through the grate.

Where does the water go? In many towns, it goes into pipes. The pipes lead to a creek, a river or a lake. The water is not always cleaned first. So a drain is only for rain.

Paint or oil in a drain can end up in the creek. It can hurt the fish and plants. Leaves and trash can block the grate. Then the rain cannot go down, and a big puddle grows.

Some towns paint a fish near the grate. It reminds people to keep the water clean.

Questions

1. What is a storm drain?

_____

_____

2. Where does the water often go?

_____

_____

3. What can paint in a drain do?

_____

_____

4. What can happen if leaves block a grate?

_____

_____

5. Why might a town paint a fish by a drain?

_____

_____

6. Why do some towns make rules about drains?

_____

_____

Words to know

grate: a metal cover with slots in it

creek: a small stream of water

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: _____

Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain

Triangle group

Look down at the edge of a street. You may see a metal grate in the curb. That is a storm drain. When it rains, water runs along the street and falls through the grate.

Where does the water go? In many towns, a storm drain leads to pipes that empty into a creek, a river or a lake. The water does not always get cleaned first. That is why a drain is only meant for rain.

If someone pours paint or oil down a drain, it can end up in the creek. It can harm the fish and plants that live there. Leaves and trash can also pile up and block the grate. Then rain has no place to go, and a big puddle grows on the street.

Some towns have rules to protect their drains. A few paint a small picture of a fish near the grate. It is a reminder to keep the water clean for everyone downstream.

Questions

1. What is a storm drain?

_____

_____

2. Where does the water from a storm drain often go?

_____

_____

3. What can happen if paint is poured down a drain?

_____

_____

4. What can happen when leaves block a grate?

_____

_____

5. Why might a town paint a fish near a storm drain?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think some towns make rules about what goes down a drain?

_____

_____

Words to know

grate: a metal cover with slots in it
curb: the raised edge along the side of a street
creek: a small stream of water
downstream: farther along in the direction a river flows
reminder: something that helps you remember

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: _____

Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain

Square group

Look down at the edge of almost any street, and you may notice a metal grate set into the curb. That grate is a storm drain. When it rains, water streams along the street and pours through the openings.

Where does all that water travel? In many towns, a storm drain connects to underground pipes that empty into a creek, a river or a lake. The water is not always cleaned before it arrives, which is why a drain is meant to carry only rain.

If someone pours paint or oil into a drain, those liquids can flow into the creek and harm the fish and plants that live there. Fallen leaves and loose trash can also pile up and clog the grate. When that happens, the rain has nowhere to go, and a large puddle spreads across the street.

To protect their drains, some towns have rules about what may go into them. A few towns even paint a small fish beside the grate as a reminder to keep the water clean for everyone downstream.

Questions

1. What is a storm drain?

_____

_____

2. Where does the water from a storm drain often end up?

_____

_____

3. What can happen if someone pours paint into a drain?

_____

_____

4. What happens when leaves and trash clog a grate?

_____

_____

5. Why might a town paint a fish beside a storm drain?

_____

_____

6. Why might a town create rules about what goes into drains?

_____

_____

Words to know

grate: a metal cover with slots in it
curb: the raised edge along the side of a street
creek: a small stream of water
downstream: farther along in the direction a river flows
reminder: something that helps you remember

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: Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain

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

Circle: Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain

Easier · 120 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. A metal grate at the edge of a street that lets rain water go down.
2. To a creek, a river or a lake.
3. It can end up in the creek and hurt the fish and plants.
4. The rain cannot go down, and a big puddle grows.
5. To remind people the drain leads to water where fish live.
6. Rules help keep the water clean for everyone.

Triangle: Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain

This passage · 161 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. A metal grate at the edge of a street that lets rain water run down into pipes.
2. To a creek, a river or a lake.
3. It can end up in the creek and harm the fish and plants.
4. The rain has no place to go, so a big puddle grows on the street.
5. To remind people that the drain leads to water where fish live, so they should keep it clean.
6. Rules help protect the water that everyone shares.

Square: Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain

Harder · 176 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. A metal grate set into the curb that lets rain water flow into pipes.
2. In a creek, a river or a lake.
3. It can flow into the creek and harm the fish and plants.
4. The rain has nowhere to go, and a large puddle spreads across the street.
5. To remind people the drain leads to water where fish live, so they should keep it clean.
6. Rules protect the water that everyone shares.