Name: _____ Date: _____

Paper Made from Reeds on the Nile

Circle group

Long ago, the people of Egypt wrote on papyrus. It was made from a tall reed. The reed grew by the Nile River.

Workers cut the green stem into thin strips. They laid some strips side by side. Then they laid more strips across the top. The strips were pressed flat and left to dry.

When it was dry, a scribe could write on it. The scribe used a reed pen and ink. Sheets were joined to make a long scroll. A scroll could be rolled up and carried.

Papyrus was light. In dry Egypt, some scrolls lasted for thousands of years. We can still read them today. Our word paper comes from papyrus.

Questions

1. What plant was papyrus made from?

_____

_____

2. How did workers lay the strips?

_____

_____

3. What did a scribe write with?

_____

_____

4. What were sheets joined to make?

_____

_____

5. Why did some scrolls last for thousands of years?

_____

_____

6. Why was a scroll easy to carry?

_____

_____

Words to know

papyrus: a kind of paper made from a reed plant
reed: a tall grass that grows near water
scribe: a person whose job was to write
scroll: a long sheet of paper that is rolled up
strips: long, thin pieces of something

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: _____

Paper Made from Reeds on the Nile

Triangle group

Long ago, the people of ancient Egypt wrote on a material called papyrus. It was made from a tall reed that grew along the Nile River.

To make it, workers cut the green stem into thin strips. They laid some strips side by side. Then they laid more strips across the top, going the other way. The strips were pressed flat and left to dry. The juice inside the plant helped hold them together.

When the sheet was dry, a scribe could write on it with a reed pen and ink. Sheets were joined end to end to make a long scroll. A scroll could be rolled up and carried from place to place.

Papyrus was light and easy to store. In the dry air of Egypt, some scrolls lasted for thousands of years. Today we can still read what the scribes wrote. Our word paper comes from the word papyrus.

Questions

1. What plant was papyrus made from?

_____

_____

2. How did workers lay the strips of reed?

_____

_____

3. What did a scribe write with?

_____

_____

4. What were sheets of papyrus joined to make?

_____

_____

5. Why could some scrolls last for thousands of years?

_____

_____

6. Why was a scroll easy to carry from place to place?

_____

_____

Words to know

papyrus: a kind of paper made from a reed plant
reed: a tall grass that grows near water
scribe: a person whose job was to write
scroll: a long sheet of paper that is rolled up
strips: long, thin pieces of something

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: _____

Paper Made from Reeds on the Nile

Square group

Thousands of years ago, the scribes of ancient Egypt wrote on a remarkable material called papyrus. It was made from a tall reed that flourished along the banks of the Nile River.

To produce it, workers sliced the green stem of the reed into thin strips. They arranged some strips side by side, and then they placed a second layer across the top, running in the opposite direction. The layers were pressed flat and left to dry, and the natural juice inside the plant helped hold them together.

Once a sheet was dry, a scribe could write on it with a reed pen and ink. Several sheets were often joined end to end to form a long scroll, which could be rolled up and carried from one place to another.

Papyrus was light and simple to store. In the dry air of Egypt, some scrolls survived for thousands of years, so we can still read what the scribes wrote. Even our word paper comes from the word papyrus.

Questions

1. What plant was papyrus made from?

_____

_____

2. How did workers arrange the strips of reed?

_____

_____

3. What did a scribe write with?

_____

_____

4. What were several sheets joined end to end to form?

_____

_____

5. Why were some scrolls able to survive for thousands of years?

_____

_____

6. Why was a scroll convenient to carry from place to place?

_____

_____

Words to know

papyrus: a kind of paper made from a reed plant
reed: a tall grass that grows near water
scribe: a person whose job was to write
scroll: a long sheet of paper that is rolled up
strips: long, thin pieces of something

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: Paper Made from Reeds on the Nile

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

Circle: Paper Made from Reeds on the Nile

Easier · 114 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. A tall reed that grew by the Nile River.
2. Some side by side, and then more across the top.
3. A reed pen and ink.
4. A long scroll.
5. The air in Egypt is very dry.
6. Papyrus was light, and a scroll could be rolled up.

Triangle: Paper Made from Reeds on the Nile

This passage · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. A tall reed that grew along the Nile River.
2. Some side by side, and then more across the top going the other way.
3. A reed pen and ink.
4. A long scroll.
5. The air in Egypt is very dry.
6. Papyrus was light, and a scroll could be rolled up.

Square: Paper Made from Reeds on the Nile

Harder · 168 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. A tall reed that grew along the banks of the Nile River.
2. Some side by side, with a second layer across the top running the opposite way.
3. A reed pen and ink.
4. A long scroll.
5. The air in Egypt is very dry.
6. Papyrus was light, and a scroll could be rolled up.