Name: _____ Date: _____

A Stonemason Builds a Wall That Stays Put

Circle group

A stonemason builds with stone. Stones are heavy. They do not bend. The mason must plan each one.

First, she looks at her pile of stones. She picks one that fits the gap in the wall. If it is too big, she taps it with a chisel and a mallet. A chisel is a steel tool with a sharp edge. A mallet is a hammer with a big flat head. A few taps can knock off a small chunk.

Then she sets the stone in place. She often spreads mortar under it. Mortar is a thick paste. It dries hard and holds the stones.

She checks her work all the time. A level shows if the top is flat. A string with a weight shows if the wall is straight.

A good stone wall can stand a long time.

Questions

1. What tools does the mason use to shape a stone?

_____

_____

2. What is mortar?

_____

_____

3. What does a level show?

_____

_____

4. How does the mason check that a wall is straight?

_____

_____

5. Why must the mason plan each stone?

_____

_____

6. Why does the mason keep checking her work?

_____

_____

Words to know

mason: a worker who builds with stone or brick
chisel: a steel tool with a sharp edge used to cut stone
mortar: a paste that dries hard and holds stones together
level: a tool that shows whether a surface is flat

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: _____

A Stonemason Builds a Wall That Stays Put

Triangle group

A stonemason builds with stone. Stones are heavy, and they do not bend. The mason has to plan each one.

First, she looks at her pile of stones. She picks one that fits the gap in the wall. If it is too big, she taps it with a chisel and a mallet. A chisel is a steel tool with a sharp edge. A mallet is a hammer with a big, flat head. A few taps can knock off a small chunk.

Then she sets the stone in place. Often she spreads mortar underneath. Mortar is a thick paste that dries hard and holds stones together.

The mason checks her work all the time. She uses a level to see if the top is flat. She hangs a string with a weight to see if the wall is straight up and down.

A good stone wall can stand for a very long time.

Questions

1. What tools does the mason use to shape a stone?

_____

_____

2. What is mortar?

_____

_____

3. What does a level show?

_____

_____

4. How does the mason check that a wall is straight up and down?

_____

_____

5. Why does the mason have to plan each stone?

_____

_____

6. Why does the mason keep checking her work?

_____

_____

Words to know

mason: a worker who builds with stone or brick
chisel: a steel tool with a sharp edge used to cut stone
mortar: a paste that dries hard and holds stones together
level: a tool that shows whether a surface is flat

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: _____

A Stonemason Builds a Wall That Stays Put

Square group

A stonemason constructs walls and buildings out of stone. Stones are heavy and they cannot be bent, so the mason has to plan the position of every single one.

To begin, she studies her pile of stones and chooses one that fits a gap in the wall. If it is too large, she taps it with a chisel and a mallet. A chisel is a steel tool with a sharp edge, and a mallet is a hammer with a broad, flat head. A few careful taps can knock off a small chunk.

Then she sets the stone in place, frequently spreading mortar beneath it. Mortar is a thick paste that dries hard and holds the stones together.

Throughout the job, the mason checks her work. She uses a level to see whether the top is flat, and she hangs a string with a weight on it to learn whether the wall rises perfectly straight.

A well built stone wall can stand for a very long time.

Questions

1. What tools does the mason use to shape a stone?

_____

_____

2. What is mortar?

_____

_____

3. What does a level show?

_____

_____

4. How does the mason learn whether a wall rises straight?

_____

_____

5. Why does the mason have to plan the position of every stone?

_____

_____

6. Why does the mason check her work throughout the job?

_____

_____

Words to know

mason: a worker who builds with stone or brick
chisel: a steel tool with a sharp edge used to cut stone
mortar: a paste that dries hard and holds stones together
level: a tool that shows whether a surface is flat

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: A Stonemason Builds a Wall That Stays Put

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

Circle: A Stonemason Builds a Wall That Stays Put

Easier · 139 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. A chisel and a mallet.
2. A thick paste that dries hard and holds stones.
3. If the top of the wall is flat.
4. She uses a string with a weight.
5. Stones are heavy and do not bend, so each one must fit.
6. So the wall is flat and straight and will stand a long time.

Triangle: A Stonemason Builds a Wall That Stays Put

This passage · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. A chisel and a mallet.
2. A thick paste that dries hard and holds stones together.
3. Whether the top of the wall is flat.
4. She hangs a string with a weight.
5. Stones are heavy and do not bend, so each one must fit.
6. So the wall is flat and straight and will stand for a long time.

Square: A Stonemason Builds a Wall That Stays Put

Harder · 166 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. A chisel and a mallet.
2. A thick paste that dries hard and holds stones together.
3. Whether the top of the wall is flat.
4. She hangs a string with a weight on it.
5. Stones are heavy and cannot be bent, so each one has to fit.
6. So the wall is flat and straight and will stand for a very long time.