Name: _____ Date: _____

The Town Inside the Button Tin

Circle group

Tomas found a round tin of buttons in his aunt's attic. He lifted the lid. He heard a tiny sound. It was like a bell as small as a seed.

He looked close. There was a whole town between the buttons. The big brass buttons were round houses. The tiny blue ones were ponds. Little people waved up at him. They were as small as rice.

"Please close the lid!" called a tiny mayor named Pim. "Our roof is too bright!"

Tomas closed it halfway. "What do you need?" he asked.

"A needle," said Pim. "Our bridge is a thread. It came loose."

Tomas got a needle and a spool. He sewed the thread tight across a gap between two buttons. The mayor crossed the bridge three times to test it.

Each week after that, Tomas left the tin open a crack. A tiny bell rang when he came.

Questions

1. Where did Tomas find the tin?

_____

_____

2. What were the big brass buttons in the tiny town?

_____

_____

3. Why did Pim ask Tomas to close the lid?

_____

_____

4. What was the town's bridge made of?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas fix the bridge?

_____

_____

6. Why did Tomas leave the tin open only a crack?

_____

_____

Words to know

attic: a room under the roof of a house
brass: a shiny yellow metal
mayor: the leader of a town
spool: a small roll that holds thread

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 Town Inside the Button Tin

Triangle group

Tomas found a round tin of buttons in his aunt's attic. When he lifted the lid, he heard a tiny sound, like a bell the size of a seed.

He looked closer. Between the buttons was a whole town. The big brass buttons were round houses. The tiny blue ones were ponds. Little people the size of rice grains waved up at him.

"Please close the lid!" called a tiny mayor named Pim. "Our roof is too bright!"

Tomas closed it halfway. "Is there anything you need?" he asked.

"A needle," said Pim. "Our bridge is a thread, and it has come loose."

Tomas fetched a needle and a spool. He sewed the thread tight across a gap between two buttons. The mayor crossed the bridge three times just to test it.

Each week after that, Tomas left the tin open a crack. A tiny bell rang whenever he came to visit.

Questions

1. Where did Tomas find the tin?

_____

_____

2. What were the big brass buttons in the tiny town?

_____

_____

3. Why did Pim ask Tomas to close the lid?

_____

_____

4. What was the town's bridge made of?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas fix the bridge?

_____

_____

6. Why did Tomas leave the tin open only a crack?

_____

_____

Words to know

attic: a room under the roof of a house
brass: a shiny yellow metal
mayor: the leader of a town
spool: a small roll that holds thread

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 Town Inside the Button Tin

Square group

Tomas discovered a round tin of buttons in the corner of his aunt's dusty attic. When he lifted the lid, he heard a faint, tinkling sound, like a bell no bigger than a seed.

He leaned in closer. Nestled between the buttons was an entire town. The large brass buttons were round houses, and the tiny blue ones were ponds. Little people no larger than grains of rice waved up at him.

"Please close the lid!" called a tiny mayor named Pim. "The light is far too bright for our roofs!"

Tomas lowered it halfway. "Is there anything that you need?" he asked.

"A needle," said Pim. "Our bridge is made of thread, and it has come loose."

Tomas fetched a needle and a spool and sewed the thread tightly across the gap between two buttons. The mayor crossed the bridge three times, just to be certain it was safe.

Every week after that, Tomas left the tin open a crack, and a tiny bell rang whenever he came to visit.

Questions

1. Where in the house did Tomas find the tin?

_____

_____

2. What were the large brass buttons in the tiny town?

_____

_____

3. Why did Pim ask Tomas to close the lid?

_____

_____

4. What was the town's bridge made of?

_____

_____

5. How did Tomas repair the bridge?

_____

_____

6. Why did Tomas leave the tin open only a crack?

_____

_____

Words to know

attic: a room under the roof of a house
brass: a shiny yellow metal
mayor: the leader of a town
spool: a small roll that holds thread

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 Town Inside the Button Tin

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

Circle: The Town Inside the Button Tin

Easier · 149 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. In his aunt's attic.
2. Round houses.
3. The light from outside was too bright.
4. A thread.
5. He sewed the thread tight across the gap.
6. He wanted to give some light but not too much.

Triangle: The Town Inside the Button Tin

This passage · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. In his aunt's attic.
2. Round houses.
3. The light from outside was too bright for their roof.
4. A thread.
5. He sewed the thread tight across the gap with a needle.
6. He wanted to give the little people some light but not too much.

Square: The Town Inside the Button Tin

Harder · 171 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. In his aunt's dusty attic.
2. Round houses.
3. The light was far too bright for their roofs.
4. Thread.
5. He sewed the thread tightly across the gap between two buttons.
6. He wanted to let in some light without making it too bright for the little people.