Name: _____ Date: _____

Wash Day Before Washing Machines

Circle group

Today you can put dirty clothes in a machine and press a button. A long time ago, washing clothes took most of the day. In many homes it was a big job once a week. People called it wash day.

First, someone brought in water. It often came from a well or a pump. It was carried in buckets. Then it was heated in a big kettle over a fire.

Next came the scrubbing. A person rubbed each piece of clothing on a washboard. A washboard had ridges. Soap and hard work took out the dirt. Then the clothes were rinsed. Each one was twisted by hand to wring out the water.

Last, the wet clothes hung on a line to dry. By evening, the wash was done. Everyone was glad when machines came along.

Questions

1. What was wash day?

_____

_____

2. Where did water for washing often come from?

_____

_____

3. How was the water heated?

_____

_____

4. What was a washboard for?

_____

_____

5. Why did wash day take most of the day?

_____

_____

6. Why were people glad when washing machines came along?

_____

_____

Words to know

kettle: a large pot for heating water
washboard: a ridged board for scrubbing clothes
wring: to squeeze and twist water out of cloth
rinsed: washed with clean water to remove soap

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: _____

Wash Day Before Washing Machines

Triangle group

Today you can put dirty clothes in a machine, press a button, and walk away. A long time ago, washing clothes took most of the day. In many homes it was a big job that came once a week, and people called it wash day.

First, someone had to bring in water. Water often came from a well or a pump and was carried in buckets. Then it was heated in a big kettle over a fire.

Next came the scrubbing. A person rubbed each piece of clothing against a washboard, which was a board with ridges. Soap and hard work lifted out the dirt. After that, the clothes were rinsed. Each one was twisted by hand to wring out the water. Later, a wringer with two rollers did the squeezing.

Last, the wet clothes were hung on a line in the sun and wind to dry. By evening, the wash was done. Everyone was glad when machines came along.

Questions

1. What was wash day?

_____

_____

2. Where did water for washing often come from?

_____

_____

3. How was the water heated?

_____

_____

4. What was a washboard for?

_____

_____

5. Why did wash day take most of the day?

_____

_____

6. Why were people glad when washing machines came along?

_____

_____

Words to know

kettle: a large pot for heating water
washboard: a ridged board for scrubbing clothes
wring: to squeeze and twist water out of cloth
rinsed: washed with clean water to remove soap

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: _____

Wash Day Before Washing Machines

Square group

Today you can drop your dirty clothes into a machine, press a button, and walk away. A long time ago, however, washing clothes consumed most of the day. In many homes it was an enormous job that came around once a week, and people called it wash day.

First, someone had to fetch the water, which often came from a well or a pump and was carried inside in heavy buckets. Then it was heated in a big kettle over a fire.

Next came the scrubbing. A person rubbed each piece of clothing against a washboard, a board covered in ridges, and the combination of soap and hard work lifted out the dirt. After that, the clothes were rinsed, and each one was twisted by hand to wring out the water. Later, a wringer with two rollers did the squeezing instead.

Finally, the wet clothes were hung on a line to dry in the sun and the wind. By evening, the wash was finished, and everyone was delighted when machines came along.

Questions

1. What was wash day?

_____

_____

2. Where did the water for washing often come from?

_____

_____

3. How was the water heated?

_____

_____

4. What was a washboard used for?

_____

_____

5. Why did washing clothes consume most of the day?

_____

_____

6. Why was everyone delighted when washing machines came along?

_____

_____

Words to know

kettle: a large pot for heating water
washboard: a ridged board for scrubbing clothes
wring: to squeeze and twist water out of cloth
rinsed: washed with clean water to remove soap

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: Wash Day Before Washing Machines

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

Circle: Wash Day Before Washing Machines

Easier · 135 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. The day each week when many homes did the laundry.
2. A well or a pump.
3. In a big kettle over a fire.
4. Rubbing clothes on its ridges to get them clean.
5. Every step was done by hand, from carrying water to hanging the wash.
6. Machines saved a lot of hard work and time.

Triangle: Wash Day Before Washing Machines

This passage · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. The day each week when many homes did the laundry.
2. A well or a pump.
3. In a big kettle over a fire.
4. Rubbing clothes against its ridges to get them clean.
5. Every step was done by hand, from carrying water to hanging the wash.
6. Machines saved a lot of hard work and time.

Square: Wash Day Before Washing Machines

Harder · 172 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. The day each week when many homes did the laundry.
2. A well or a pump.
3. In a big kettle over a fire.
4. Rubbing clothes against its ridges to lift out the dirt.
5. Every step was done by hand, from fetching water to hanging the wash.
6. Machines saved a great deal of hard work and time.