Name: _____ Date: _____

Aunt Dorcas and the Zucchini Canoe

Circle group

Aunt Dorcas grew vegetables, and she grew them big. Her carrots could hold up a tent. Her pumpkins made fine hats for barns. But her zucchini was the talk of three counties.

It started as a small green seed in spring. By June, the zucchini had stretched down the garden path. By July, it had crossed the road. The neighbors worried. Would it grow into their kitchens?

"What do I do with all this zucchini?" Aunt Dorcas asked her dog, Pudding. Pudding wagged his tail. He had no idea.

On a hot August morning, Aunt Dorcas saw that the zucchini was long and smooth. It was shaped just like a canoe. She grabbed her biggest spoon and scooped out the inside. She made two paddles from garden rakes. Then she pushed it into Lily Pond.

It floated well. Aunt Dorcas and Pudding paddled to the middle. The cool water splashed their toes. All the neighbors came to see.

"Best boat I ever rode," said Aunt Dorcas.

That night, she made zucchini bread from the scooped-out parts. It was enough for the whole town. The canoe is still on Lily Pond, but the ducks have started to nibble it.

Questions

1. How big did Aunt Dorcas's carrots grow?

_____

_____

2. What did Aunt Dorcas see about the zucchini in August?

_____

_____

3. What did she use to make paddles?

_____

_____

4. What did she make from the scooped-out parts?

_____

_____

5. Why did the neighbors worry in July?

_____

_____

6. Why do the ducks nibble the canoe?

_____

_____

Words to know

zucchini: a long green summer squash
paddles: flat tools used to push a boat through 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: _____

Aunt Dorcas and the Zucchini Canoe

Triangle group

Aunt Dorcas grew vegetables, and she grew them big. Her carrots could hold up a tent. Her pumpkins made fine hats for barns. But her zucchini was the talk of three counties.

It started as a small green seed in the spring. By June, the zucchini had stretched down the garden path. By July, it had crossed the road. The neighbors began to worry that it would grow into their kitchens.

"What am I supposed to do with all this zucchini?" Aunt Dorcas asked her dog, Pudding. Pudding wagged his tail. He did not have an idea.

On a hot August morning, Aunt Dorcas noticed that the zucchini was long, smooth, and shaped almost exactly like a canoe. She grabbed her biggest spoon and scooped out the inside until it was hollow. She made two paddles from garden rakes. Then she pushed the whole thing into Lily Pond.

It floated beautifully. Aunt Dorcas and Pudding paddled out into the middle, where the cool water splashed their toes. All the neighbors came to see.

"Best boat I ever rode," Aunt Dorcas declared.

That night, she made zucchini bread from the scooped-out parts, enough to feed the whole town. The canoe is still on Lily Pond, though ducks have started to nibble it.

Questions

1. How big did Aunt Dorcas's carrots grow?

_____

_____

2. What did Aunt Dorcas notice about the zucchini in August?

_____

_____

3. What did she use to make paddles?

_____

_____

4. What did she make from the scooped-out parts?

_____

_____

5. Why did the neighbors worry about the zucchini in July?

_____

_____

6. Why do ducks nibble the canoe?

_____

_____

Words to know

zucchini: a long green summer squash
hollow: empty on the inside
paddles: flat tools used to push a boat through water
declared: said in a strong, sure voice

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: _____

Aunt Dorcas and the Zucchini Canoe

Square group

Aunt Dorcas grew vegetables, and she grew them enormous. Her carrots could hold up a tent, and her pumpkins made fine hats for barns. But her zucchini was the talk of three counties.

It began as a small green seed in the spring. By June, the zucchini had stretched all the way down the garden path. By July, it had sprawled across the road, and the neighbors began to fret that it might grow right into their kitchens.

"What on earth am I supposed to do with all this zucchini?" Aunt Dorcas asked her dog, Pudding. Pudding wagged his tail, but he offered no suggestions.

On a sweltering August morning, Aunt Dorcas noticed that the zucchini was long, smooth, and shaped almost exactly like a canoe. She grabbed her biggest spoon and scooped out the insides until the shell was hollow. She fashioned two paddles from garden rakes. Then she shoved the whole creation into Lily Pond.

It floated beautifully. Aunt Dorcas and Pudding paddled out to the middle, where the cool water splashed their toes. All the neighbors gathered to watch.

"Best boat I ever rode," Aunt Dorcas declared.

That night, she baked zucchini bread from the scooped-out parts, enough to feed the entire town. The canoe still floats on Lily Pond, although the ducks have begun to nibble it.

Questions

1. How large did Aunt Dorcas's carrots grow?

_____

_____

2. What did Aunt Dorcas notice about the zucchini in August?

_____

_____

3. What did she make her paddles from?

_____

_____

4. What did she bake from the scooped-out parts?

_____

_____

5. Why did the neighbors fret in July?

_____

_____

6. Why have the ducks started to nibble the canoe?

_____

_____

Words to know

zucchini: a long green summer squash
hollow: empty on the inside
paddles: flat tools used to push a boat through water
declared: said in a strong, sure voice

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: Aunt Dorcas and the Zucchini Canoe

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

Circle: Aunt Dorcas and the Zucchini Canoe

Easier · 199 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. They could hold up a tent.
2. It was long and smooth and shaped like a canoe.
3. Garden rakes.
4. Zucchini bread for the whole town.
5. The zucchini had crossed the road and kept growing, so it might reach their kitchens.
6. It is made of zucchini, which they can eat.

Triangle: Aunt Dorcas and the Zucchini Canoe

This passage · 212 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. They could hold up a tent.
2. It was long and smooth and shaped like a canoe.
3. Garden rakes.
4. Zucchini bread for the whole town.
5. It had crossed the road and kept growing, so it might reach their kitchens.
6. It is made of zucchini, which is a vegetable they can eat.

Square: Aunt Dorcas and the Zucchini Canoe

Harder · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. They were big enough to hold up a tent.
2. It was long, smooth, and shaped almost exactly like a canoe.
3. Garden rakes.
4. Zucchini bread to feed the entire town.
5. The zucchini had sprawled across the road and might grow into their kitchens.
6. It is made of zucchini, which is a vegetable they can eat.