Name: _____ Date: _____

Four Climates on One Tanzanian Mountain

Circle group

Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain in Africa. It rises from the flat, grassy land of Tanzania. Tanzania is close to the equator. You might think it is hot all over. But the top of the mountain has ice.

Why? It is because of height. The higher you go, the colder the air gets. So the mountain has zones, like layers of a cake. At the bottom, farmers grow bananas and coffee in warm soil. Above the farms is a rainforest. It is wet and green, and monkeys live in the trees.

Higher up, the trees get short. The land is open with small bushes. Then the ground is dry and rocky, with few plants. At the very top, it is cold, and ice sits on the peak.

A climber goes through all of these zones. It is like going from a hot country to a freezing one in a few days.

Questions

1. In which country does Kilimanjaro rise?

_____

_____

2. Why is the top of the mountain colder than the bottom?

_____

_____

3. What crops do farmers grow at the bottom?

_____

_____

4. What lives in the rainforest zone?

_____

_____

5. What is at the very top of the mountain?

_____

_____

6. Why does a climber need warm clothes even if the walk starts on warm ground?

_____

_____

Words to know

equator: the imaginary line around the middle of the Earth

zones: separate areas that are different from the ones around them

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: _____

Four Climates on One Tanzanian Mountain

Triangle group

Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain in Africa. It rises from the grassy plains of Tanzania, close to the equator. You might expect a place so near the equator to be hot all over. Yet the very top of the mountain is covered with ice.

The reason is height. The higher you climb, the colder the air becomes. Because of this, Kilimanjaro has different zones, a little like the layers of a cake. At the bottom, farmers grow crops such as bananas and coffee in warm, rich soil. Above the farms lies a rainforest, where it is wet and green and monkeys swing through the trees.

Higher still, the trees grow short and the land turns into open moorland dotted with small shrubs. Past that, the ground is dry, rocky, and nearly empty of plants. The last zone is the cold summit, where ice sits on the peak.

A climber who walks up the mountain passes through every one of these zones. It is a bit like traveling from a hot country to a freezing one in only a few days.

Questions

1. In which country does Kilimanjaro rise?

_____

_____

2. Why is the top of the mountain colder than the bottom?

_____

_____

3. Which crops do farmers grow at the bottom of the mountain?

_____

_____

4. What lives in the rainforest zone?

_____

_____

5. What is the last zone at the top of the mountain?

_____

_____

6. Why would a climber need warm clothes even though the walk starts on warm ground?

_____

_____

Words to know

equator: the imaginary line around the middle of the Earth
zones: separate areas that are different from the ones around them
moorland: open, wild land with low shrubs and few trees
summit: the very top of a mountain

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: _____

Four Climates on One Tanzanian Mountain

Square group

Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, rises abruptly from the grassy plains of Tanzania, not far from the equator. A location so close to the equator might be expected to stay hot from top to bottom, yet the summit of this mountain is capped with ice.

The explanation is altitude. The higher you climb, the colder the air becomes, and as a result the mountain is divided into distinct zones, rather like the layers of a cake. At the base, farmers cultivate crops such as bananas and coffee in warm, fertile soil. Above the farmland lies a rainforest, where it is wet and green and monkeys swing through the branches.

Farther up, the trees grow shorter and the landscape opens into moorland scattered with small shrubs. Beyond that, the ground becomes dry, rocky, and almost bare of plants. The final zone is the freezing summit, where ice sits on the peak.

A climber who walks up the mountain passes through every one of these zones. The experience resembles a journey from a hot country to a frozen one, compressed into only a few days.

Questions

1. In which country does Kilimanjaro rise?

_____

_____

2. Why is the summit colder than the base?

_____

_____

3. Which crops are grown at the base of the mountain?

_____

_____

4. What lives in the rainforest zone?

_____

_____

5. What is found in the final zone at the top?

_____

_____

6. Why would a climber need warm clothing even though the walk begins on warm ground?

_____

_____

Words to know

equator: the imaginary line around the middle of the Earth
zones: separate areas that are different from the ones around them
moorland: open, wild land with low shrubs and few trees
summit: the very top of a mountain

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: Four Climates on One Tanzanian Mountain

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

Circle: Four Climates on One Tanzanian Mountain

Easier · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. Tanzania.
2. The higher you go, the colder the air gets.
3. Bananas and coffee.
4. Monkeys, in a wet and green forest.
5. Cold air, and ice on the peak.
6. The air gets colder as you climb, so the top is freezing.

Triangle: Four Climates on One Tanzanian Mountain

This passage · 180 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. Tanzania.
2. The higher you climb, the colder the air becomes.
3. Bananas and coffee.
4. Monkeys, in a wet and green forest.
5. The cold summit, where ice sits on the peak.
6. The air gets colder the higher you go, so the top is freezing.

Square: Four Climates on One Tanzanian Mountain

Harder · 184 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.2

1. Tanzania.
2. The higher you climb, the colder the air becomes.
3. Bananas and coffee.
4. Monkeys, in a wet and green forest.
5. The freezing summit, where ice sits on the peak.
6. The air becomes colder with height, so the top is freezing.