Name: _____ Date: _____

From Candle Flame to Light Bulb

Circle group

Think about when the sun goes down. Today you flip a switch. Long ago, evenings were very different.

For a long time, the main light in a home was a fire in the fireplace. It gave light, but it gave smoke too. It was hard to carry to another room.

Later, people made candles. Candles were made of wax or animal fat. Each one burned down and had to be replaced. A candle gave only a small, flickering glow. So families often went to bed soon after dark.

Then came oil lamps. They burned oil in a pot with a wick. They were brighter than candles and could be carried. In some towns, gas lamps were lit along the streets.

In the late 1800s, inventors made electric light bulbs that were safe and cheap for homes. A bulb needed no flame and no oil. Once homes had electricity, people could read, cook and play games late at night.

Questions

1. What was the main light in a home for a long time?

_____

_____

2. What were candles made of?

_____

_____

3. Why did families go to bed soon after dark in candle times?

_____

_____

4. How was an oil lamp better than a candle?

_____

_____

5. Why did electric light change evenings?

_____

_____

6. What did a light bulb not need?

_____

_____

Words to know

flickering: shining in an unsteady way, going bright and dim
wick: the string in a candle or lamp that carries the flame
inventors: people who think up and make new things
electricity: a kind of energy that travels through wires and powers lights

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: _____

From Candle Flame to Light Bulb

Triangle group

Think about what happens when the sun goes down. Today you flip a switch. Long ago, evenings looked very different.

For a very long time, the main light inside a home was a fire in the fireplace. It gave off light, but it also gave off smoke, and it could not be carried easily from room to room.

Later, people made candles. Candles were made from wax or from animal fat, and each one burned down and had to be replaced. A candle gave only a small, flickering glow, so families often went to bed soon after dark.

Then came oil lamps, which burned oil in a container with a wick. They were brighter than candles and could be carried. In some towns, gas lamps were later lit along city streets.

In the late 1800s, inventors made electric light bulbs that were safe and cheap enough to use at home. A bulb needed no flame to burn and no oil to pour. Once houses were wired for electricity, people could read, cook and play games long after dark.

Questions

1. What was the main light inside a home for a very long time?

_____

_____

2. What were candles made from?

_____

_____

3. Why did families often go to bed soon after dark in candle times?

_____

_____

4. How was an oil lamp better than a candle?

_____

_____

5. Why did electric light change how people used their evenings?

_____

_____

6. What did a light bulb not need that older lights did?

_____

_____

Words to know

flickering: shining in an unsteady way, going bright and dim
wick: the string in a candle or lamp that carries the flame
inventors: people who think up and make new things
electricity: a kind of energy that travels through wires and powers lights

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: _____

From Candle Flame to Light Bulb

Square group

Consider what happens when the sun sets. Today you simply flip a switch. Centuries ago, evenings looked dramatically different.

For an extremely long time, the principal source of light inside a home was a fire burning in the fireplace. It provided illumination, but it also produced smoke, and it could not easily be carried from one room to another.

Eventually, people began making candles from wax or from animal fat, and each candle burned down and had to be replaced. Because a candle produced only a small, flickering glow, families frequently went to bed shortly after dark.

Oil lamps followed, burning oil in a container fitted with a wick. They shone more brightly than candles and could be carried around the house. In some towns, gas lamps were later lit along the streets.

During the late 1800s, inventors developed electric light bulbs that were safe and inexpensive enough for ordinary homes. A bulb required no open flame and no oil to pour. Once houses were wired for electricity, people could read, cook and play games long after nightfall.

Questions

1. What was the principal source of light in a home for a very long time?

_____

_____

2. What materials were candles made from?

_____

_____

3. Why did families often go to bed shortly after dark in the age of candles?

_____

_____

4. In what ways was an oil lamp an improvement over a candle?

_____

_____

5. Why did electric light transform the way people spent their evenings?

_____

_____

6. What did a light bulb not require that older lights did?

_____

_____

Words to know

flickering: shining in an unsteady way, going bright and dim
wick: the string in a candle or lamp that carries the flame
inventors: people who think up and make new things
electricity: a kind of energy that travels through wires and powers lights

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: From Candle Flame to Light Bulb

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

Circle: From Candle Flame to Light Bulb

Easier · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. A fire in the fireplace.
2. Wax or animal fat.
3. A candle gave only a small, flickering glow.
4. It was brighter and could be carried.
5. People could see well enough to read, cook and play late at night.
6. A flame or oil.

Triangle: From Candle Flame to Light Bulb

This passage · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. A fire in the fireplace.
2. Wax or animal fat.
3. A candle gave only a small, flickering glow.
4. It was brighter and could be carried.
5. They could see well enough to read, cook and play for hours after dark.
6. A flame or oil.

Square: From Candle Flame to Light Bulb

Harder · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.1

1. A fire burning in the fireplace.
2. Wax or animal fat.
3. A candle produced only a small, flickering glow.
4. It shone more brightly and could be carried around the house.
5. They could see well enough to read, cook and play for hours after nightfall.
6. An open flame or oil.