Name: _____ Date: _____

Hoodoos Are Rock Pillars Wearing Stone Hats

Circle group

Hoodoos are tall rock pillars. They stand in groups in dry places. Many look like they wear a flat stone hat.

A hoodoo starts as a big wall of rock. Some layers are hard. Some layers are soft. Rain and snow wear the wall away. Water gets into cracks. When it freezes, it gets bigger and pushes the cracks open. Pieces break off.

The soft rock wears away fast. The hard rock wears away slowly. A hard piece on top keeps rain off the rock below it. That rock stays up. The rock around it is washed away. Soon there is a thin pillar with a hard cap.

Hoodoos do not last forever. Rain, snow and ice keep working. One day the cap will fall. Then the pillar will crumble too.

Questions

1. What do many hoodoos look like they are wearing?

_____

_____

2. Which rock wears away fast, the hard rock or the soft rock?

_____

_____

3. What does freezing water do in a crack?

_____

_____

4. What does the hard cap keep off the rock below?

_____

_____

5. Why is a hoodoo tall and thin?

_____

_____

6. What will happen to a hoodoo one day?

_____

_____

Words to know

pillars: tall, thin columns that stand up straight
crumble: to break into small pieces

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: _____

Hoodoos Are Rock Pillars Wearing Stone Hats

Triangle group

In some dry parts of the world, tall rock pillars stand together in crowded groups. They are called hoodoos. Many of them look as if they are wearing a flat stone hat.

A hoodoo begins as a big wall of rock. Some layers of the wall are hard. Other layers are soft and crumble easily. Rain and melting snow run down the wall and wear it away. Water also seeps into small cracks. When that water freezes, it grows larger and pushes the cracks wider. Over a very long time, pieces break off and fall.

The soft layers wear away faster than the hard ones. A hard piece on top can shelter the rock just below it from the rain. That sheltered rock stays standing while the rock around it is carried off. At last, a narrow pillar is left with a hard cap on top.

Hoodoos do not last forever. The same rain, snow and ice keep working on them. One day the cap will fall, and the pillar under it will slowly crumble too.

Questions

1. What do many hoodoos look as if they are wearing?

_____

_____

2. Which layers of rock wear away faster, the hard ones or the soft ones?

_____

_____

3. What does water do when it freezes inside a crack?

_____

_____

4. How does the hard cap help the rock below it?

_____

_____

5. Why does a hoodoo end up tall and narrow?

_____

_____

6. What will probably happen to a hoodoo in the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

pillars: tall, thin columns that stand up straight
crumble: to break into small pieces
seeps: flows slowly through a tiny opening
shelter: to cover and protect from weather

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: _____

Hoodoos Are Rock Pillars Wearing Stone Hats

Square group

In certain dry regions of the world, tall pillars of rock stand together in crowded clusters. These formations are called hoodoos, and many of them appear to be wearing a flat stone hat.

Every hoodoo begins as a massive wall of rock made of different layers. Some layers are hard and resistant, while others are soft and crumble easily. Rain and melting snow run down the wall and gradually wear it away. Water also seeps into small cracks, and when it freezes, it expands and forces the cracks wider. Over an extremely long time, pieces break off and tumble down.

Because the soft layers wear away faster than the hard ones, a hard piece near the top can shelter the rock directly beneath it from the rain. That protected rock remains standing while the surrounding rock is carried off by water and wind. Eventually, a narrow pillar is left behind with a hard cap resting on top.

Hoodoos are not permanent. The same rain, snow and ice continue working on them, and one day the cap will fall, after which the pillar beneath it will slowly crumble as well.

Questions

1. What do many hoodoos appear to be wearing?

_____

_____

2. Which layers of rock wear away faster, the hard layers or the soft ones?

_____

_____

3. What happens to water when it freezes inside a small crack?

_____

_____

4. How does a hard cap protect the rock beneath it?

_____

_____

5. Why does a hoodoo end up with such a tall, narrow shape?

_____

_____

6. What will most likely happen to a hoodoo in the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

pillars: tall, thin columns that stand up straight
crumble: to break into small pieces
seeps: flows slowly through a tiny opening
shelter: to cover and protect from weather

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: Hoodoos Are Rock Pillars Wearing Stone Hats

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

Circle: Hoodoos Are Rock Pillars Wearing Stone Hats

Easier · 131 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. A flat stone hat.
2. The soft rock wears away fast.
3. It gets bigger and pushes the crack open.
4. It keeps the rain off.
5. The soft rock around it was washed away, but the rock under the cap stayed.
6. The cap will fall and the pillar will crumble.

Triangle: Hoodoos Are Rock Pillars Wearing Stone Hats

This passage · 176 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. A flat stone hat.
2. The soft ones wear away faster.
3. It grows larger and pushes the crack wider.
4. It shelters that rock from the rain.
5. The soft rock around it was carried away while the sheltered rock stayed standing.
6. Its cap will fall and the pillar will slowly crumble.

Square: Hoodoos Are Rock Pillars Wearing Stone Hats

Harder · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.4

1. A flat stone hat.
2. The soft layers wear away faster.
3. It expands and forces the crack wider.
4. It shelters that rock from the rain.
5. The surrounding soft rock was carried away while the sheltered rock remained standing.
6. Its cap will fall and the pillar will slowly crumble.