Name: _____ Date: _____

Mangroves: Trees That Stand on Stilts

Circle group

Most trees cannot live with roots in salty water, but mangroves can. They grow along warm coasts, in muddy shallows. The sea comes and goes there with the tide. Their tangled roots rise and arch out of the mud like stilts. The trunk stands above the water.

The roots do many jobs. Some hold the tree steady in soft mud. Others stick up into the air. They help the tree get the air it needs, since mud has little to give. Many mangroves also handle salt. Some push salt out through their leaves. You may see white crystals on them.

The roots make a safe nursery. Young fish and crabs hide in the maze from bigger hunters. Birds nest in the branches above. Snails and oysters cling to the roots below.

Mangroves also protect the land. Thick roots slow down waves and help mud settle. This keeps the shore from washing away. People near mangroves often count on them for fish and for shelter from storms.

Questions

1. Where do mangroves grow?

_____

_____

2. Why do the roots arch out of the mud like stilts?

_____

_____

3. How do the roots that stick up into the air help the tree?

_____

_____

4. How do some mangroves handle salt?

_____

_____

5. Why do young fish and crabs hide in the roots?

_____

_____

6. How do mangroves keep a shore from washing away?

_____

_____

Words to know

mangroves: trees that grow in salty water along warm coasts
shallows: places where the water is not deep
tangled: twisted together in a messy knot
nursery: a safe place where young plants or animals grow

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: _____

Mangroves: Trees That Stand on Stilts

Triangle group

Most trees would not survive with their roots in salty water, but mangroves do. They grow along warm coasts, in muddy shallows where the sea comes and goes with the tide. Their tangled roots rise up and arch out of the mud like stilts, so the trunk stands above the water.

These roots are good at many jobs. Some of them hold the tree steady in soft mud. Others stick up into the air, which helps the tree get the air it needs, since mud has little to give. Many mangroves also handle the salt. Some push salt out through their leaves, and you may find white crystals on them.

The roots make a safe nursery. Young fish and crabs slip into the maze and hide from bigger hunters. Birds nest in the branches above, and snails and oysters cling to the roots below.

Mangroves also protect the land. The thick roots slow down waves and help mud settle, which keeps the shore from washing away. People who live near mangrove forests often depend on them for fish and for shelter from storms.

Questions

1. Where do mangroves grow?

_____

_____

2. Why do the roots arch out of the mud like stilts?

_____

_____

3. How do the roots that stick up into the air help the tree?

_____

_____

4. How do some mangroves handle the salt?

_____

_____

5. Why do young fish and crabs hide in the roots?

_____

_____

6. How do mangroves keep a shore from washing away?

_____

_____

Words to know

mangroves: trees that grow in salty water along warm coasts
shallows: places where the water is not deep
tangled: twisted together in a messy knot
nursery: a safe place where young plants or animals grow

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: _____

Mangroves: Trees That Stand on Stilts

Square group

Most trees could not survive with their roots submerged in salty water, yet mangroves thrive in it. They grow along warm coastlines, in muddy shallows where the sea advances and retreats with the tide. Their tangled roots rise and arch out of the mud like stilts, lifting the trunk above the water.

These roots perform a remarkable number of tasks. Some of them anchor the tree firmly in the soft mud. Others project upward into the air, which helps the tree obtain the oxygen it requires, since mud provides very little. Many mangroves also cope with the salt. Some push it out through their leaves, and you may notice white crystals on the surface.

The roots form a sheltered nursery. Young fish and crabs slip into the maze and hide from larger hunters. Birds build nests in the branches above, while snails and oysters cling to the roots below.

Mangroves also safeguard the land. The dense roots slow the waves and help mud settle, which prevents the shoreline from washing away. People who live near mangrove forests frequently depend on them for fish and for protection from storms.

Questions

1. Where do mangroves grow?

_____

_____

2. Why do the roots arch out of the mud like stilts?

_____

_____

3. How do the roots that project into the air help the tree?

_____

_____

4. How do some mangroves cope with the salt?

_____

_____

5. Why do young fish and crabs hide among the roots?

_____

_____

6. How do mangroves prevent a shoreline from washing away?

_____

_____

Words to know

mangroves: trees that grow in salty water along warm coasts
shallows: places where the water is not deep
tangled: twisted together in a messy knot
nursery: a safe place where young plants or animals grow

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: Mangroves: Trees That Stand on Stilts

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

Circle: Mangroves: Trees That Stand on Stilts

Easier · 166 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Along warm coasts, in muddy shallows where the tide comes and goes.
2. So the trunk stands above the water.
3. They help it get the air it needs.
4. They push salt out through their leaves.
5. The maze hides them from bigger hunters.
6. Thick roots slow down waves and help mud settle.

Triangle: Mangroves: Trees That Stand on Stilts

This passage · 183 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. Along warm coasts, in muddy shallows where the tide comes and goes.
2. So the trunk stands above the water.
3. They help it get the air it needs.
4. They push salt out through their leaves.
5. The maze of roots hides them from bigger hunters.
6. Their thick roots slow down waves and help mud settle.

Square: Mangroves: Trees That Stand on Stilts

Harder · 188 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.8

1. Along warm coastlines, in muddy shallows where the sea advances and retreats with the tide.
2. They lift the trunk above the water.
3. They help it obtain the air it requires.
4. They push it out through their leaves.
5. The maze of roots shelters them from larger hunters.
6. Their dense roots slow the waves and help mud settle.