Name: _____ Date: _____

Milestones Along a Roman Road

Circle group

The ancient Romans built many roads. Soldiers marched on them. Messengers ran along them. Traders pulled carts of goods to faraway towns. Good roads kept the empire together.

The builders dug a long trench. They filled it with layers. Big stones went at the bottom. Small stones and gravel went on top of those. The top was flat paving stones that fit tight. The middle of the road was a little higher than the sides. Rain ran off into ditches, so there was no mud.

Workers also put up stone markers called milestones. Each one told how far a traveler had walked or how far to go. A tired walker could read it and know how far the next town was.

The roads were built so well that some pieces are still there today.

Questions

1. Who used Roman roads?

_____

_____

2. What went at the bottom of the trench?

_____

_____

3. Why was the middle of the road a little higher?

_____

_____

4. What did a milestone tell a traveler?

_____

_____

5. Why might a road with layers last so long?

_____

_____

6. How did good roads help the empire?

_____

_____

Words to know

empire: a large group of lands ruled by one government
trench: a long, narrow hole dug in the ground
paving stones: flat stones used to make the top of a road
milestones: stone markers that show distances along a road

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: _____

Milestones Along a Roman Road

Triangle group

The ancient Romans built thousands of miles of roads. Soldiers marched on them. Messengers hurried along them, and traders pulled carts of goods to far-off towns. A good road helped the whole empire stay connected.

Roman builders did not just flatten the dirt. First they dug a long trench. Then they filled it with layers. Big stones went at the bottom, then smaller stones and gravel. The top was often made of flat, tight-fitting paving stones. The middle of the road was a little higher than the sides, so rain ran off into ditches instead of making puddles and mud.

Along the way, workers set up tall stone markers called milestones. Each one told travelers how far they had come or how far they still had to go. A tired walker could look at a milestone and know how much farther the next town was.

The roads were built so well that pieces of some of them can still be seen today.

Questions

1. Who used Roman roads?

_____

_____

2. What went at the very bottom of the trench?

_____

_____

3. Why was the middle of the road a little higher than the sides?

_____

_____

4. What did a milestone tell a traveler?

_____

_____

5. Why might a road with many layers last so long?

_____

_____

6. How did good roads help the Roman empire?

_____

_____

Words to know

empire: a large group of lands ruled by one government
trench: a long, narrow hole dug in the ground
paving stones: flat stones used to make the top of a road
milestones: stone markers that show distances along a road

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: _____

Milestones Along a Roman Road

Square group

The ancient Romans constructed thousands of miles of roads across their empire. Soldiers marched along them, messengers hurried over them, and merchants hauled carts of goods to distant towns. Reliable roads helped a vast empire remain connected and organized.

Roman engineers did not merely flatten the soil. They began by digging a deep, narrow trench, which they filled in careful layers. Large stones went at the bottom, followed by smaller stones and gravel. The surface was frequently built from flat, tightly fitted paving stones. Because the center of the road stood slightly higher than its edges, rainwater drained into side ditches rather than collecting in puddles and turning the road into mud.

Along the route, workers erected tall stone markers called milestones. Each marker informed travelers how far they had journeyed or how much farther they needed to go. A weary walker could glance at a milestone and immediately know the distance to the next town.

The roads were constructed so skillfully that sections of some of them can still be seen today.

Questions

1. Who made use of Roman roads?

_____

_____

2. What was placed at the very bottom of the trench?

_____

_____

3. Why did the center of the road stand slightly higher than the edges?

_____

_____

4. What information did a milestone give a traveler?

_____

_____

5. Why might a road built in many layers survive for so long?

_____

_____

6. In what way did good roads benefit the Roman empire?

_____

_____

Words to know

empire: a large group of lands ruled by one government
trench: a long, narrow hole dug in the ground
paving stones: flat stones used to make the top of a road
milestones: stone markers that show distances along a road

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: Milestones Along a Roman Road

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

Circle: Milestones Along a Roman Road

Easier · 134 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Soldiers, messengers and traders used them.
2. Big stones went at the bottom.
3. Rain ran off into the ditches.
4. How far they had come or how far to go.
5. Stone and gravel stay firm and let water drain, so there is no mud.
6. They kept the empire together.

Triangle: Milestones Along a Roman Road

This passage · 164 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. Soldiers, messengers and traders used them.
2. Big stones went at the bottom.
3. Rain could run off into the ditches.
4. How far they had come or how far they still had to go.
5. Layers of stone and gravel stay firm and let water drain away, so the road does not turn to mud or wash out.
6. They kept the whole empire connected.

Square: Milestones Along a Roman Road

Harder · 173 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8

1. Soldiers, messengers and merchants used them.
2. Large stones were placed at the bottom.
3. So rainwater would drain into the side ditches.
4. How far they had journeyed or how much farther they had to go.
5. Layers of stone and gravel stay firm and drain water away, so the road does not wash out or turn to mud.
6. They kept the whole empire connected and organized.