Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mudskipper Who Would Not Swim

Circle group

A mudskipper is a fish that can hop on the mud. Pogo was a mudskipper. He lived in a mangrove swamp. He loved the mud best of all. When the tide went out, he sat up on his front fins and watched the shore.

The other fish teased him. "A real fish swims," said a little silver minnow. "You are only half a fish."

Pogo wanted to show them. He swam hard all afternoon. By evening he was worn out. His gills felt dry and sore. He had tried so hard to be like the minnows that he forgot who he was.

At sunset the tide went out again. The minnows were stuck in a shallow puddle. A hungry heron walked toward them. Pogo hopped onto the mud and wriggled by the puddle. He made a lot of noise. The heron turned toward him, and the minnows slipped into the deep creek.

"Thank you," said the minnow. "Hopping is a fine thing for a fish."

Questions

1. What can a mudskipper do that most fish cannot?

_____

_____

2. What did the minnow say about Pogo at first?

_____

_____

3. Why did Pogo swim all afternoon?

_____

_____

4. What danger did the minnows face at sunset?

_____

_____

5. How did Pogo help the minnows?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

mangrove: a tree that grows in salty water near the coast
tide: the rising and falling of the sea along the shore
teased: made fun of someone in an unkind way
wriggled: twisted and squirmed from side to side

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: _____

The Mudskipper Who Would Not Swim

Triangle group

A mudskipper is a fish that can climb out of the water and hop across the mud. Pogo was a mudskipper who lived in a mangrove swamp, and he loved the mud best of all. When the tide went out, he propped himself up on his front fins and watched the world from the shore.

The other fish teased him. "A real fish swims," said a little silver minnow. "You are only half a fish."

Pogo wanted to prove them wrong. He dove in and swam hard all afternoon, up and down the creek. By evening he was worn out, and his gills felt dry and sore. He had tried so hard to be like the minnows that he had forgotten who he was.

At sunset the tide dropped again. The minnows were trapped in a shallow puddle, and a hungry heron was walking toward them. Pogo hopped out onto the mud, flopped beside the puddle, and wriggled loudly. The heron turned toward the noise, and the minnows slipped through a gap into the deep creek.

"Thank you," whispered the silver minnow. "Hopping is a fine thing for a fish."

Questions

1. What can a mudskipper do that most fish cannot?

_____

_____

2. What did the minnow say about Pogo at first?

_____

_____

3. Why did Pogo swim all afternoon?

_____

_____

4. What danger did the minnows face at sunset?

_____

_____

5. How did Pogo help the minnows?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

mangrove: a tree that grows in salty water near the coast
tide: the rising and falling of the sea along the shore
teased: made fun of someone in an unkind way
wriggled: twisted and squirmed from side to side

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: _____

The Mudskipper Who Would Not Swim

Square group

A mudskipper is a remarkable fish that can climb out of the water and hop across the mud. Pogo was a mudskipper who lived in a mangrove swamp, and he loved the mud more than anything else. Whenever the tide went out, he propped himself up on his front fins and observed the world from the shore.

The other fish teased him relentlessly. "A real fish swims," said a little silver minnow. "You are only half a fish."

Pogo was determined to prove them wrong. He dove in and swam hard all afternoon, up and down the creek. By evening he was completely worn out, and his gills felt dry and sore. He had tried so desperately to be like the minnows that he had forgotten who he really was.

At sunset the tide dropped once again. The minnows were trapped in a shallow puddle, and a hungry heron was stalking steadily toward them. Pogo hopped out onto the mud, flopped beside the puddle, and wriggled as noisily as he could. The heron turned toward the commotion, and the minnows slipped through a gap into the deep creek.

"Thank you," whispered the silver minnow. "Hopping is a fine thing for a fish."

Questions

1. What remarkable thing can a mudskipper do that most fish cannot?

_____

_____

2. What did the little minnow say about Pogo at first?

_____

_____

3. Why did Pogo swim hard all afternoon?

_____

_____

4. What danger did the minnows face at sunset?

_____

_____

5. How did Pogo manage to help the minnows?

_____

_____

6. What lesson does this story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

mangrove: a tree that grows in salty water near the coast
tide: the rising and falling of the sea along the shore
teased: made fun of someone in an unkind way
wriggled: twisted and squirmed from side to side

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: The Mudskipper Who Would Not Swim

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

Circle: The Mudskipper Who Would Not Swim

Easier · 165 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. Hop across the mud.
2. That he was only half a fish because a real fish swims.
3. He wanted to show the other fish they were wrong.
4. They were stuck in a puddle and a hungry heron was coming.
5. He wriggled and made noise so the heron turned to him, and the minnows got away.
6. Being different can be a strength, and you do not have to change to fit in.

Triangle: The Mudskipper Who Would Not Swim

This passage · 190 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. Climb out of the water and hop across the mud.
2. That he was only half a fish because a real fish swims.
3. He wanted to prove the other fish wrong.
4. They were trapped in a shallow puddle and a hungry heron was coming.
5. He wriggled on the mud and made noise so the heron turned toward him, which let them escape.
6. Being different can be a strength, and you do not have to change who you are to fit in.

Square: The Mudskipper Who Would Not Swim

Harder · 202 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. Climb out of the water and hop across the mud.
2. That he was only half a fish, since a real fish swims.
3. He was determined to prove the other fish wrong.
4. They were trapped in a shallow puddle while a hungry heron approached.
5. He wriggled noisily on the mud so the heron turned toward him, which let the minnows escape.
6. Being different can be a strength, and you need not change who you are in order to fit in.