Name: _____ Date: _____

Mudskippers Walk on Mud with Fins

Circle group

Fish live in water. Most die quickly if they leave it. Mudskippers are different. They spend a lot of time on land.

Mudskippers live on muddy shores in warm parts of the world. When the tide goes out, they leave the water. They crawl on the mud to look for bugs and small crabs. Their front fins are strong and bend like elbows. A mudskipper props itself up on them and drags itself forward. It can also flick its tail and jump.

How can a fish breathe on land? A mudskipper takes in air through its skin and its mouth. These parts must stay wet. So it rolls in puddles. It also holds water in its gill chambers. It is like a small tank of water.

Its eyes sit high on its head. It can look around while its body rests low on the mud.

Mudskippers dig burrows in the mud. They stay safe there when the tide is high.

Questions

1. Where do mudskippers live?

_____

_____

2. How does a mudskipper move across mud?

_____

_____

3. How can a mudskipper breathe on land?

_____

_____

4. What does a mudskipper hold in its gill chambers?

_____

_____

5. Why do mudskippers dig burrows?

_____

_____

6. Why does a mudskipper roll in puddles?

_____

_____

Words to know

tide: the daily rise and fall of the sea along the shore
props: holds something up so it does not fall
burrows: holes or tunnels that animals dig to live in

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: _____

Mudskippers Walk on Mud with Fins

Triangle group

Fish live in water, and most die quickly if they are taken out of it. Mudskippers are different. They spend a lot of their time on land.

Mudskippers live on muddy shores in warm parts of the world. When the tide goes out, they leave the water and move across the mud in search of insects and small crabs. Their front fins are strong and bend like elbows. A mudskipper props itself up on them and drags itself forward. It can also flick its tail and jump, which is how it got its name.

How can a fish breathe on land? A mudskipper takes in air through its skin and the lining of its mouth, but these parts must stay wet. So it keeps its skin damp by rolling in puddles. It also holds water in its gill chambers, almost like carrying a small tank of water around with it.

Its eyes sit high on its head like periscopes, so it can look around while most of its body rests low on the mud. These eyes can also be pulled down when needed.

Mudskippers dig burrows in the mud, where they can wait out high tide and stay safe. In every part of their lives, they are fish that have found a way to be at home both in water and out.

Questions

1. Where do mudskippers live?

_____

_____

2. How does a mudskipper move across the mud?

_____

_____

3. How can a mudskipper breathe on land?

_____

_____

4. What does a mudskipper carry in its gill chambers?

_____

_____

5. Why do mudskippers dig burrows?

_____

_____

6. Why would a mudskipper roll in puddles?

_____

_____

Words to know

tide: the daily rise and fall of the sea along the shore
props: holds something up so it does not fall
damp: a little bit wet
periscopes: tubes with a lookout on top, used to see over things
burrows: holes or tunnels that animals dig to live in

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: _____

Mudskippers Walk on Mud with Fins

Square group

Fish are creatures of the water, and most perish quickly if they are removed from it. Mudskippers, however, are a remarkable exception, because they spend a substantial portion of their lives on land.

Mudskippers inhabit muddy shores in warm regions of the world. When the tide recedes, they leave the water and travel across the mud in search of insects and small crabs. Their front fins are powerful and bend much like elbows, so a mudskipper can prop itself upright on them and drag its body forward. It can also flick its tail and leap into the air, which is how the fish earned its name.

How can a fish breathe out of water? A mudskipper absorbs air through its skin and the lining of its mouth, although these surfaces must remain moist. To keep its skin damp, it rolls in puddles, and it also stores water in its gill chambers, almost as if it were carrying a small tank with it.

Its eyes are set high on its head like periscopes, allowing it to survey its surroundings while most of its body rests low on the mud.

Mudskippers also dig burrows in the mud, where they can wait out high tide in safety. In every part of their lives, they are fish that have learned to be at home both in the water and out of it.

Questions

1. Where do mudskippers live?

_____

_____

2. How does a mudskipper travel across the mud?

_____

_____

3. How can a mudskipper breathe on land?

_____

_____

4. What does a mudskipper store in its gill chambers?

_____

_____

5. Why do mudskippers dig burrows?

_____

_____

6. Why would a mudskipper roll in puddles?

_____

_____

Words to know

tide: the daily rise and fall of the sea along the shore
damp: a little bit wet
periscopes: tubes with a lookout on top, used to see over things
burrows: holes or tunnels that animals dig to live in

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: Mudskippers Walk on Mud with Fins

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

Circle: Mudskippers Walk on Mud with Fins

Easier · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. On muddy shores in warm parts of the world.
2. It props itself up on its strong front fins and drags itself, or flicks its tail to jump.
3. It takes in air through its skin and mouth, which must stay wet.
4. Water.
5. To stay safe when the tide is high.
6. Its skin must stay wet so that it can breathe on land.

Triangle: Mudskippers Walk on Mud with Fins

This passage · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. On muddy shores in warm parts of the world.
2. It props itself up on its strong front fins and drags itself, or flicks its tail to jump.
3. It takes in air through its skin and the lining of its mouth, which must stay wet.
4. Water.
5. To wait out high tide and stay safe.
6. Its skin must stay damp so that it can breathe on land.

Square: Mudskippers Walk on Mud with Fins

Harder · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.5

1. On muddy shores in warm regions of the world.
2. It props itself up on its powerful front fins and drags itself forward, or flicks its tail to leap.
3. It absorbs air through its skin and the lining of its mouth, which must remain moist.
4. Water.
5. To wait out high tide in safety.
6. Its skin must remain damp so that it can breathe out of the water.