Name: _____ Date: _____

Paddle Number Seven Hides a Secret

Circle group

At Lake Alder Camp, each canoe paddle had a number on the handle. Dev always got paddle seven. One morning he saw something new. Under the number, someone had carved tiny letters: "N 20, W 10."

"Maybe it is a map," whispered his friend Owen.

After lunch, the boys went to the north end of the dock. Dev took twenty big steps along the shore. Then he took ten steps toward the setting sun. They stopped by a flat gray rock with moss on one side.

Owen pushed the rock. It moved a little. Under it was a dented tin box. Inside were old photos, a bent compass, and a note. It said, "To the next campers: leave something for those who come after you."

The photos showed campers from long ago in wooden canoes.

That night, the boys added their own note and a drawing of paddle seven. Then they put the box back under the rock.

Questions

1. What was on the handle of every paddle?

_____

_____

2. What did the carved letters say?

_____

_____

3. What did the boys find under the rock?

_____

_____

4. What was inside the box?

_____

_____

5. What did the carved letters mean?

_____

_____

6. Why did the boys put the box back?

_____

_____

Words to know

carved: cut into a hard surface such as wood
dented: pushed in, with a dip or bump from being hit
compass: a tool with a needle that points north

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: _____

Paddle Number Seven Hides a Secret

Triangle group

At Lake Alder Camp, every canoe paddle had a number burned into the handle. Dev always got paddle number seven, and he never gave it a second thought until the morning he noticed something new. Under the number, someone had carved tiny letters: "N 20, W 10."

"Maybe it is a map," whispered his cabin mate, Owen.

After lunch, the boys stood at the dock's north end. Dev took twenty big steps straight along the shore, and then ten steps toward the setting sun. They stopped beside a flat gray boulder with moss on one side.

Owen pushed against the rock, and it rocked a little. Underneath was a dented tin box. Inside lay a stack of old photographs, a bent compass, and a note that said, "To the next campers: leave something for those who come after you."

Dev and Owen read the photographs together. The pictures showed campers from long ago, smiling in wooden canoes.

That evening, the boys added their own note and a drawing of paddle number seven. Then they set the box back under the boulder.

Questions

1. What was burned into the handle of every paddle?

_____

_____

2. What did the carved letters under the number say?

_____

_____

3. What did the boys find under the boulder?

_____

_____

4. What was inside the tin box?

_____

_____

5. What did the carved letters most likely mean?

_____

_____

6. Why did the boys put the box back?

_____

_____

Words to know

carved: cut into a hard surface such as wood
boulder: a very large rock
dented: pushed in, with a dip or bump from being hit
compass: a tool with a needle that points north

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: _____

Paddle Number Seven Hides a Secret

Square group

At Lake Alder Camp, every canoe paddle had a number burned into its handle. Dev always received paddle number seven, and he never gave it a second thought until the morning he noticed something new. Beneath the number, someone had carved tiny letters: "N 20, W 10."

"Perhaps it is a map," whispered his cabin mate, Owen, with growing excitement.

After lunch, the two boys stood at the northern end of the dock. Dev took twenty long strides straight along the shore, and then ten more toward the setting sun. They halted beside a flat gray boulder with moss creeping up one side.

Owen leaned his shoulder against the rock, and it tilted slightly. Underneath sat a dented tin box. Inside lay a stack of old photographs, a bent compass, and a handwritten note that said, "To the next campers: leave something for those who come after you."

Dev and Owen examined the photographs together. The pictures showed campers from long ago, grinning in wooden canoes.

That evening, the boys wrote their own note and added a sketch of paddle number seven. Then they carefully returned the box to its hiding place beneath the boulder.

Questions

1. What was burned into the handle of every paddle?

_____

_____

2. What did the tiny carved letters say?

_____

_____

3. What was hidden underneath the boulder?

_____

_____

4. What did the tin box contain?

_____

_____

5. What did the carved letters most likely mean?

_____

_____

6. Why did the boys return the box to its hiding place?

_____

_____

Words to know

carved: cut into a hard surface such as wood
boulder: a very large rock
dented: pushed in, with a dip or bump from being hit
compass: a tool with a needle that points north

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: Paddle Number Seven Hides a Secret

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

Circle: Paddle Number Seven Hides a Secret

Easier · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. A number.
2. "N 20, W 10."
3. A dented tin box.
4. Old photos, a bent compass, and a note.
5. They gave directions: twenty steps north, then ten steps west.
6. The note asked them to leave something for later campers.

Triangle: Paddle Number Seven Hides a Secret

This passage · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. A number.
2. "N 20, W 10."
3. A dented tin box.
4. Old photographs, a bent compass, and a note.
5. They gave directions: twenty steps north, then ten steps west.
6. The note asked them to leave something for future campers, so they added their own and kept the box for others.

Square: Paddle Number Seven Hides a Secret

Harder · 193 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. A number.
2. "N 20, W 10."
3. A dented tin box.
4. Old photographs, a bent compass, and a handwritten note.
5. They gave directions: twenty strides north, then ten strides west.
6. The note asked them to leave something for future campers, so they added to it and kept it for others.