Name: _____ Date: _____

Paper from the Papyrus Plant

Circle group

Ancient Egyptians needed something to write on. They found it by the Nile River. It was a tall green plant called papyrus.

To make a sheet, a worker cut the long stems and peeled off the green skin. The soft white inside was cut into thin strips. The strips were laid side by side in a row. Then another row went on top, turned crosswise. The two layers made a grid.

Next, the layers were pressed and dried in the sun. They stuck together and became one smooth, flat sheet. A scribe rubbed it with a stone to make it even. Then he wrote with a reed pen and ink.

Sheets could be joined into a long roll called a scroll. A scroll was easy to carry and store.

Papyrus was used for many centuries. Our word paper comes from it.

Questions

1. Where did papyrus grow?

_____

_____

2. What part of the plant was cut into strips?

_____

_____

3. Why was the second layer put on crosswise?

_____

_____

4. What was a scroll?

_____

_____

5. What did a scribe use to write on papyrus?

_____

_____

6. What modern word comes from papyrus?

_____

_____

Words to know

papyrus: a tall water plant that was used to make writing sheets
crosswise: going across, in the opposite direction
scroll: a long roll of paper or papyrus with writing on it

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: _____

Paper from the Papyrus Plant

Triangle group

Ancient Egyptians needed something to write on. They found it growing along the banks of the Nile River. It was a tall green plant called papyrus.

To make a writing sheet, a worker cut the long stems and peeled away the green skin. The soft white inside was sliced into thin strips. The strips were laid side by side in a row. Then another row went on top, turned crosswise, so the two layers formed a grid.

Next, the layers were pressed and left to dry in the sun. As they dried, they stuck together and became one smooth, flat sheet. A scribe rubbed the surface with a stone to make it even, and then wrote with a reed pen and ink.

Sheets could be joined together into a long roll called a scroll. A scroll was easy to carry and store.

Papyrus was used for many centuries, and our word paper comes from it.

Questions

1. Where did papyrus grow?

_____

_____

2. What part of the plant was cut into thin strips?

_____

_____

3. Why were the second layer of strips placed crosswise?

_____

_____

4. What was a scroll?

_____

_____

5. What did a scribe use to write on papyrus?

_____

_____

6. What modern word comes from papyrus?

_____

_____

Words to know

papyrus: a tall water plant that was used to make writing sheets
crosswise: going across, in the opposite direction
scroll: a long roll of paper or papyrus with writing on it
surface: the outside or top layer of something

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: _____

Paper from the Papyrus Plant

Square group

The ancient Egyptians required a suitable surface for writing, and they discovered one growing along the banks of the Nile River. It was a tall, green plant known as papyrus.

To produce a writing sheet, a worker cut the long stems and peeled away the green outer skin. The soft white interior was then sliced into thin strips, which were arranged side by side in a single row. A second row was placed on top, turned crosswise, so that the two layers formed a grid.

Afterward, the layers were pressed together and left to dry in the sun. As they dried, they bonded into one smooth, flat sheet. A scribe polished the surface with a stone to make it even, and then wrote on it using a reed pen and ink.

Several sheets could be joined end to end to form a long roll called a scroll, which was convenient to carry and store.

Papyrus remained in use for many centuries, and our modern word paper is derived from it.

Questions

1. Where did the papyrus plant grow?

_____

_____

2. Which part of the plant was sliced into thin strips?

_____

_____

3. Why was the second layer of strips placed crosswise?

_____

_____

4. What was a scroll?

_____

_____

5. What did a scribe use to write on papyrus?

_____

_____

6. Which modern word is derived from papyrus?

_____

_____

Words to know

papyrus: a tall water plant that was used to make writing sheets
crosswise: going across, in the opposite direction
scroll: a long roll of paper or papyrus with writing on it
surface: the outside or top layer of something

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: Paper from the Papyrus Plant

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

Circle: Paper from the Papyrus Plant

Easier · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Along the banks of the Nile River.
2. The soft white inside of the stem.
3. So the two layers made a grid that held together.
4. A long roll made by joining sheets.
5. A reed pen and ink.
6. Paper.

Triangle: Paper from the Papyrus Plant

This passage · 155 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. Along the banks of the Nile River.
2. The soft white inside of the stem.
3. So the two layers made a grid that held together.
4. A long roll made by joining sheets together.
5. A reed pen and ink.
6. Paper.

Square: Paper from the Papyrus Plant

Harder · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. Along the banks of the Nile River.
2. The soft white interior of the stem.
3. So the two layers formed a grid that held together.
4. A long roll formed by joining several sheets end to end.
5. A reed pen and ink.
6. Paper.