Name: _____ Date: _____

Salt Ponds: Sunshine Makes Salt

Circle group

Seawater is salty. That salt can be collected for the kitchen. In warm, sunny places by the coast, people make salt in a simple way. The sun does most of the work.

First, seawater goes into a shallow pond with a low wall around it. The pond is shallow, so the sun can warm all the water. As the water heats, some of it turns into vapor and rises into the air. This is called evaporation. The salt does not rise. It stays behind.

As the water drops, the salt is more crowded in the water that is left. Workers often move the water through a line of ponds. In each pond, more water evaporates and the water gets saltier.

In the last pond, the water has so much salt it can hold no more. White crystals of salt form and settle on the bottom. When all the water dries up, workers rake the salt into piles. The salt is then cleaned, dried, and packed.

It takes warm weather, wind, and patience. The sea gives the salt.

Questions

1. Why is the pond shallow?

_____

_____

2. What is evaporation?

_____

_____

3. What stays behind when the water evaporates?

_____

_____

4. Why do workers move the water through a line of ponds?

_____

_____

5. What happens when the water holds all the salt it can?

_____

_____

6. Why do salt ponds work best in warm, sunny places?

_____

_____

Words to know

shallow: not deep
vapor: water that has turned into a gas you cannot see
evaporation: the change of a liquid into a gas
crystals: small, hard bits with flat sides, like grains of salt

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: _____

Salt Ponds: Sunshine Makes Salt

Triangle group

Seawater is salty, and that salt can be collected for the kitchen. In warm, sunny places near the coast, people make salt in a simple way. They let the sun do most of the work.

First, seawater is let into a shallow pond with a low wall around it. Because the pond is shallow, the sun can warm all of the water. As the water heats, some of it turns into vapor and rises into the air. This is called evaporation. Salt does not rise with the water. It stays behind.

As the water level drops, the salt becomes more crowded in the water that is left. Often the workers move the water through a series of ponds, one after another. In each pond, more water evaporates and the water gets saltier.

At last, the water in the final pond holds so much salt that it can hold no more. White crystals of salt begin to form and settle on the bottom. When the water has all dried away, workers rake the salt into piles. The salt is then cleaned, dried, and packed.

It takes warm weather, wind, and patience, but the sea provides the salt.

Questions

1. Why is the pond for making salt shallow?

_____

_____

2. What is evaporation?

_____

_____

3. What stays behind when the water evaporates?

_____

_____

4. Why do workers move the water through a series of ponds?

_____

_____

5. What happens when the water holds all the salt it can?

_____

_____

6. Why do salt ponds work best in warm, sunny places?

_____

_____

Words to know

shallow: not deep
vapor: water that has turned into a gas you cannot see
evaporation: the change of a liquid into a gas
crystals: small, hard bits with flat sides, like grains of salt

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: _____

Salt Ponds: Sunshine Makes Salt

Square group

Seawater is salty, and that salt can be gathered for use in the kitchen. In warm, sunny places along the coast, people produce salt in a remarkably simple way, allowing the sun to do most of the work.

To begin, seawater is let into a shallow pond surrounded by a low wall. Because the pond is shallow, the sun is able to warm all of the water. As the water heats up, some of it changes into vapor and rises into the air, a process called evaporation. Salt does not rise along with the water, so it is left behind.

As the water level falls, the salt becomes more concentrated in the water that remains. Workers frequently channel the water through a series of ponds, one after another, and in each pond more water evaporates and the water grows saltier.

Eventually, the water in the final pond contains so much salt that it can hold no more. White crystals of salt begin to form and settle on the bottom. Once the water has dried away entirely, workers rake the salt into piles, and it is then cleaned, dried, and packed.

It requires warm weather, wind, and patience, but the sea supplies the salt.

Questions

1. Why is the pond for making salt shallow?

_____

_____

2. What is evaporation?

_____

_____

3. What is left behind when the water evaporates?

_____

_____

4. Why do workers channel the water through a series of ponds?

_____

_____

5. What happens once the water holds as much salt as it can?

_____

_____

6. Why are salt ponds best placed in warm, sunny places?

_____

_____

Words to know

shallow: not deep
vapor: water that has turned into a gas you cannot see
evaporation: the change of a liquid into a gas
crystals: small, hard bits with flat sides, like grains of salt

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: Salt Ponds: Sunshine Makes Salt

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

Circle: Salt Ponds: Sunshine Makes Salt

Easier · 177 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. The sun can warm all the water.
2. When water turns into vapor and rises into the air.
3. The salt.
4. More water evaporates in each pond, so the water gets saltier.
5. White salt crystals form and settle on the bottom.
6. Heat and sunshine help the water evaporate faster.

Triangle: Salt Ponds: Sunshine Makes Salt

This passage · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. The sun can warm all of the water.
2. When water turns into vapor and rises into the air.
3. The salt.
4. More water evaporates in each pond, so the water gets saltier each time.
5. White salt crystals begin to form and settle on the bottom.
6. Heat and sunshine help the water evaporate faster.

Square: Salt Ponds: Sunshine Makes Salt

Harder · 203 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. The sun is able to warm all of the water.
2. The process in which water changes into vapor and rises into the air.
3. The salt.
4. More water evaporates in each pond, so the water grows saltier each time.
5. White crystals of salt begin to form and settle on the bottom.
6. Heat and sunshine help the water evaporate more quickly.