Name: _____ Date: _____

Six Weeks in a Rock Tumbler

Circle group

Caleb got a rock tumbler for his birthday. It was a small barrel that spun on a motor. The box said rough stones, sand, and water would turn shiny in about six weeks.

Six weeks sounded like forever. Caleb put gray, lumpy stones from the creek behind his house in the barrel. He pushed the button. The tumbler rumbled day and night.

After one week, Caleb peeked in. The stones were still dull. They had muddy gray paste on them. After two weeks, they were just a little smoother. He wanted to quit.

His aunt collects rocks. She told him to be patient. "Rocks do not hurry," she said. "The tumbling slowly wears down the rough spots. Each stage needs more time and finer sand."

So Caleb added finer sand and waited. He crossed off days on a calendar. He made a chart to remember each stage.

At the end of week six, he rinsed the stones in the sink. They shone like glass candy. One looked like honey. One had a pink and white swirl.

Caleb lined them up on his windowsill. The wait was long, but he liked the stones more because of it.

Questions

1. What did Caleb get for his birthday?

_____

_____

2. Where did Caleb find his stones?

_____

_____

3. How did the stones look after one week?

_____

_____

4. What did Caleb want to do after two weeks?

_____

_____

5. What did his aunt mean when she said rocks do not hurry?

_____

_____

6. What did Caleb add later?

_____

_____

7. Why did Caleb like the stones more at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

tumbler: a machine that slowly turns things over and over
rumbled: made a low, rolling noise
patient: able to wait calmly

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: _____

Six Weeks in a Rock Tumbler

Triangle group

For his birthday, Caleb got a rock tumbler. It was a small barrel that spun slowly on a motor. The box said that if you put in rough stones, sand, and water, they would come out shiny after about six weeks.

Six weeks sounded like forever. Caleb loaded the barrel with gray, lumpy stones from the creek behind his house. He pushed the button. The tumbler began to rumble, and it rumbled day and night.

After one week, Caleb peeked inside. The stones were still dull, and they were covered in muddy gray paste. After two weeks, they were only a little smoother. He wanted to quit and put the tumbler in the garage.

His aunt, who liked to collect rocks, told him to be patient. "Rocks do not hurry," she said. "The tumbling wears down the rough spots slowly. Each stage needs more time, and finer sand."

So Caleb added the finer sand and waited. He crossed off the days on a calendar. He made a chart to remember which stage came next.

At the end of week six, he rinsed the stones in the sink. They gleamed like glass candy. One looked like honey, and one had a swirl of pink and white.

Caleb lined them up on his windowsill. The wait had been long, but he liked them more because of it.

Questions

1. What did Caleb get for his birthday?

_____

_____

2. Where did Caleb find the stones he put in the barrel?

_____

_____

3. How did the stones look after one week?

_____

_____

4. What did Caleb want to do after two weeks?

_____

_____

5. What did his aunt mean by saying that rocks do not hurry?

_____

_____

6. What did Caleb add for the later stage?

_____

_____

7. Why did Caleb like the stones even more at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

tumbler: a machine that slowly turns things over and over
rumbled: made a low, rolling noise
patient: able to wait calmly
gleamed: shone brightly

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: _____

Six Weeks in a Rock Tumbler

Square group

For his birthday, Caleb received a rock tumbler, a small barrel that turned slowly on an electric motor. According to the box, if you loaded in rough stones, coarse sand, and water, they would emerge gleaming after roughly six weeks.

Six weeks sounded like an eternity. Caleb filled the barrel with gray, lumpy stones he had collected from the creek behind his house and pressed the button. The tumbler began to rumble, and it continued rumbling day and night.

After one week, Caleb lifted the lid and peeked inside. The stones were still dull, and they were smeared with a muddy gray paste. After two weeks, they were only slightly smoother, and he was tempted to abandon the project and shove the machine into the garage.

His aunt, an enthusiastic rock collector, urged him to be patient. "Rocks do not hurry," she told him. "The tumbling wears away the rough spots very gradually, and every stage requires more time and finer sand."

So Caleb added the finer sand and waited. He crossed off each day on a calendar and drew a chart to remind himself which stage came next.

At the end of the sixth week, he rinsed the stones in the kitchen sink. They gleamed like glass candy. One was the color of honey, and another had a swirl of pink and white running through it.

Caleb arranged them in a neat row on his windowsill. The wait had been long, but he treasured the stones even more because of it.

Questions

1. What did Caleb receive for his birthday?

_____

_____

2. Where had Caleb collected the stones he put in the barrel?

_____

_____

3. How did the stones look after one week?

_____

_____

4. What was Caleb tempted to do after two weeks?

_____

_____

5. What did his aunt mean when she said that rocks do not hurry?

_____

_____

6. What did Caleb add for the later stage?

_____

_____

7. Why did Caleb treasure the stones even more at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

tumbler: a machine that slowly turns things over and over
patient: able to wait calmly
gleamed: shone brightly

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: Six Weeks in a Rock Tumbler

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

Circle: Six Weeks in a Rock Tumbler

Easier · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. A rock tumbler.
2. In the creek behind his house.
3. Dull and covered with muddy gray paste.
4. Quit.
5. Making stones smooth takes a long time, so be patient.
6. Finer sand.
7. He had waited and worked a long time to make them shine.

Triangle: Six Weeks in a Rock Tumbler

This passage · 225 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. A rock tumbler.
2. In the creek behind his house.
3. Dull and covered in muddy gray paste.
4. Quit and put the tumbler in the garage.
5. Smoothing stones takes a long time, so you have to be patient.
6. Finer sand.
7. He had waited and worked a long time to make them shine.

Square: Six Weeks in a Rock Tumbler

Harder · 252 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. A rock tumbler.
2. From the creek behind his house.
3. Dull and smeared with muddy gray paste.
4. Abandon the project and shove the machine into the garage.
5. Smoothing stones is very gradual, so a person has to be patient.
6. Finer sand.
7. He had waited and worked for a long time to make them shine.