Name: _____ Date: _____

A Sociable Weaver Apartment House

Circle group

On a dry plain in southern Africa, you may see a huge shape in a tree. It looks like a haystack stuck in the branches. It is really a nest. Small birds called sociable weavers build it.

Most birds build a nest for one pair. Sociable weavers build one for a whole crowd. Many pairs share a big nest made of grass and sticks. It can grow so heavy that it pulls down a branch.

The nest is like an apartment building. Each pair has its own room with a hole that opens on the underside. The birds line the rooms with soft grass and feathers. The doors face down, so it is hard for a snake to climb in.

The thick grass roof keeps out the sun in the day. It holds in warmth at night. The birds stay comfortable.

The weavers add grass and sticks all year. Small owls sometimes live at the edges. It is a home for many neighbors.

Questions

1. Where do sociable weavers live?

_____

_____

2. What is the nest made of?

_____

_____

3. How is the nest like an apartment building?

_____

_____

4. Why do the doors face down?

_____

_____

5. What does the thick grass roof do?

_____

_____

6. Why might sharing one nest help the weavers?

_____

_____

Words to know

sociable: liking to be with others
plain: a large, flat stretch of land
comfortable: feeling good and at ease

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: _____

A Sociable Weaver Apartment House

Triangle group

On a dry plain in southern Africa, you may spot a huge shape high in a tree. It looks like a haystack that someone has stuck in the branches. It is really a nest, and it is built by small birds called sociable weavers.

Most birds build a nest for one pair. Sociable weavers build one for a whole crowd. Many pairs share a single big nest made from grass and sticks. A nest can grow so large and heavy that it sometimes pulls down a branch.

Inside, the nest is like an apartment building. Each pair has its own chamber with a hole that opens on the underside. The birds line the chambers with soft grass and feathers. The entrances face down, so a snake finds it harder to climb in.

The thick roof of grass does more than hide the rooms. The grass keeps out the sun in the hot day and holds in warmth on the cold night. The birds can stay comfortable in a place where the weather swings widely from day to night.

The weavers keep adding grass and sticks all year. Over many years, a nest can last for a very long time. Other creatures, such as small owls, sometimes make a home in its edges. The weavers' nest may be a home for a lot of neighbors.

Questions

1. Where do sociable weavers live?

_____

_____

2. What is the nest made of?

_____

_____

3. How is the nest like an apartment building?

_____

_____

4. Why do the entrances face down?

_____

_____

5. What does the thick grass roof do?

_____

_____

6. Why might it help the weavers to share one nest instead of building many?

_____

_____

Words to know

sociable: liking to be with others
chamber: a small room or closed space
entrance: the place where you go in
plain: a large, flat stretch of land
comfortable: feeling good and at ease

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: _____

A Sociable Weaver Apartment House

Square group

On a dry plain in southern Africa, you may notice an enormous shape high in a tree, resembling a haystack that someone has wedged into the branches. It is in fact a nest, constructed by small birds known as sociable weavers.

Most birds build a nest for a single pair, but sociable weavers build one for an entire community. Many pairs share one massive structure woven from grass and sticks, and it can become so heavy that it occasionally pulls a branch down.

Inside, the nest resembles an apartment building. Each pair occupies a separate chamber with an entrance that opens on the underside, and the birds line these chambers with soft grass and feathers. Because the entrances face downward, a snake finds it more difficult to climb inside.

The thick grass roof serves more than one purpose. It shields the rooms from the sun during the day and holds in warmth during the cold night, so the birds remain comfortable in a place where the weather changes dramatically from day to night.

The weavers continue adding grass and sticks throughout the year, and a nest can survive for a very long time. Other creatures, such as small owls, sometimes make their homes along its edges, so the nest may shelter a great many neighbors.

Questions

1. Where do sociable weavers live?

_____

_____

2. What is the enormous nest woven from?

_____

_____

3. In what way does the nest resemble an apartment building?

_____

_____

4. Why do the entrances face downward?

_____

_____

5. What purposes does the thick grass roof serve?

_____

_____

6. Why might sharing one nest benefit the weavers?

_____

_____

Words to know

sociable: liking to be with others
chamber: a small room or closed space
entrance: the place where you go in
plain: a large, flat stretch of land
comfortable: feeling good and at ease

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: A Sociable Weaver Apartment House

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

Circle: A Sociable Weaver Apartment House

Easier · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. On dry plains in southern Africa.
2. Grass and sticks.
3. Each pair of birds has its own room inside one big nest.
4. It is hard for a snake to climb in.
5. It keeps out the sun in the day and holds in warmth at night.
6. Many birds add to the big nest, and its thick roof helps them all stay comfortable.

Triangle: A Sociable Weaver Apartment House

This passage · 224 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. On dry plains in southern Africa.
2. Grass and sticks.
3. Each pair of birds has its own chamber inside the one big nest.
4. It is harder for a snake to climb in.
5. It keeps out the sun in the day and holds in warmth at night.
6. Many birds can add to the big nest and its thick roof helps them all stay comfortable.

Square: A Sociable Weaver Apartment House

Harder · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.8

1. On dry plains in southern Africa.
2. Grass and sticks.
3. Each pair of birds occupies its own chamber inside one massive nest.
4. A snake finds it more difficult to climb inside.
5. It shields the rooms from the sun by day and holds in warmth during the cold night.
6. Many birds keep adding to the nest, and its thick roof helps all of them stay comfortable.