Name: _____ Date: _____

A Spring Hidden in a Safety Pin

Circle group

Before safety pins, people held cloth together with straight pins. A straight pin was easy to lose. Its sharp point could stick the person wearing it. An inventor in the 1800s wanted a better way. He bent one piece of wire into a clever shape. That was the safety pin.

Look at one. The wire is bent into a small coil at one end. The coil is a spring. When you squeeze the pin open, the spring is bent out of shape. When you let go, the spring pushes the wire back. That push keeps the pin shut.

The other end has a small cover called the clasp. The sharp point tucks into the clasp. Then it cannot poke anyone. To open the pin, press the point out of the clasp. To close it, push the point back in until it clicks.

A safety pin is one piece of wire. It has no loose parts to lose. Parents use them on cloth diapers. Tailors use them to hold cloth. A spring and a clasp make a simple, safe tool.

Questions

1. What did people use before safety pins?

_____

_____

2. What was a problem with a straight pin?

_____

_____

3. What is the small coil at one end of a safety pin?

_____

_____

4. What does the spring do after you open the pin?

_____

_____

5. What does the clasp do with the sharp point?

_____

_____

6. Why is it good that a safety pin is one piece of wire?

_____

_____

Words to know

spring: a coil of wire that pushes back into shape after it is bent
clasp: a small part that holds something closed
coil: a shape made of rings wound one above another
inventor: a person who thinks up and makes something new
tailors: people who sew and fix clothes for a living

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 Spring Hidden in a Safety Pin

Triangle group

Before safety pins, people held cloth together with straight pins. A straight pin was easy to lose, and its sharp point could stick the person who wore it. An inventor in the 1800s looked for a better way. He bent a single piece of wire into a clever shape, and the safety pin was born.

Look at one closely. The wire is bent into a small coil at one end. This coil is a spring. When you squeeze the pin open, the spring is pushed out of shape. When you let go, the spring pushes the wire back to where it started. That push is what keeps the pin snapped shut.

The other end of the pin has a small cover called the clasp. The sharp point tucks into the clasp, so it cannot poke anyone. To open the pin, you press the point out of the clasp and swing it free. To close it, you push the point back into the clasp until it clicks.

Because it is made from one piece of wire, a safety pin has no loose parts to lose. Parents use them on cloth diapers, and tailors use them to hold cloth in place. A spring and a clasp make a simple tool that is safe to carry.

Questions

1. What did people use before safety pins?

_____

_____

2. What was a problem with a straight pin?

_____

_____

3. What is the small coil at one end of a safety pin?

_____

_____

4. What does the spring do after you squeeze the pin open?

_____

_____

5. What does the clasp do with the sharp point?

_____

_____

6. Why is it a good thing that a safety pin is made from one piece of wire?

_____

_____

Words to know

spring: a coil of wire that pushes back into shape after it is bent
clasp: a small part that holds something closed
coil: a shape made of rings wound one above another
inventor: a person who thinks up and makes something new
tailors: people who sew and fix clothes for a living

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 Spring Hidden in a Safety Pin

Square group

Before the invention of safety pins, people fastened cloth together with straight pins. A straight pin was easy to misplace, and its sharp point could prick the person who wore it. An inventor in the 1800s searched for a better solution. He bent a single piece of wire into an ingenious shape, and the safety pin was born.

Examine one closely. The wire is bent into a small coil at one end, and this coil is a spring. When you squeeze the pin open, the spring is forced out of shape. When you let go, the spring pushes the wire back to where it began, and that push is what keeps the pin snapped shut.

The opposite end of the pin has a small cover called the clasp. The sharp point tucks into the clasp, so it cannot poke anyone. To open the pin, you press the point out of the clasp and swing it free. To close it, you push the point back into the clasp until it clicks.

Because it is made from one piece of wire, a safety pin has no loose parts that could be lost. Parents use them on cloth diapers, and tailors use them to hold cloth in place. A spring and a clasp together create a simple tool that is safe to carry.

Questions

1. What did people use before the invention of safety pins?

_____

_____

2. What was a problem with a straight pin?

_____

_____

3. What is the small coil at one end of a safety pin?

_____

_____

4. What does the spring do after you squeeze the pin open?

_____

_____

5. What does the clasp do with the sharp point?

_____

_____

6. Why is it an advantage that a safety pin is made from one piece of wire?

_____

_____

Words to know

spring: a coil of wire that pushes back into shape after it is bent
clasp: a small part that holds something closed
coil: a shape made of rings wound one above another
inventor: a person who thinks up and makes something new
tailors: people who sew and fix clothes for a living

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 Spring Hidden in a Safety Pin

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

Circle: A Spring Hidden in a Safety Pin

Easier · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. Straight pins.
2. It was easy to lose, and its point could stick you.
3. A spring.
4. It pushes the wire back so the pin shuts.
5. The point tucks in, so it cannot poke anyone.
6. It has no loose parts, so nothing can fall off or get lost.

Triangle: A Spring Hidden in a Safety Pin

This passage · 213 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. Straight pins.
2. It was easy to lose, and its point could stick the person wearing it.
3. A spring.
4. It pushes the wire back so the pin snaps shut.
5. The point tucks into the clasp so it cannot poke anyone.
6. There are no loose parts, so nothing can fall off or be lost.

Square: A Spring Hidden in a Safety Pin

Harder · 220 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. Straight pins.
2. It was easy to misplace, and its point could prick the person wearing it.
3. A spring.
4. It pushes the wire back to where it began so the pin snaps shut.
5. The point tucks into the clasp, so it cannot poke anyone.
6. There are no loose parts, so nothing can fall off or be lost.