Name: _____ Date: _____

The Great Wall of China

Circle group

The Great Wall of China is one of the longest things ever built. It stretches across northern China for thousands of miles. It goes over mountains, deserts, and grasslands.

The wall was not built all at once. Different rulers built and fixed parts of it over many hundreds of years. Early parts were packed earth. Later builders used stone and brick, which lasted longer. In some places the wall is about twenty feet high. The top is wide enough for people to walk on.

The wall had a job. It helped guard the land from armies that came from the north. Soldiers lived in towers along the wall. If they saw danger, they sent signals with smoke and fire to warn the next tower. Guards also used the top of the wall as a road for soldiers and supplies.

Today, much of the wall still stands. Millions of visitors walk on it each year.

Questions

1. How long is the Great Wall of China?

_____

_____

2. Was the wall built all at once?

_____

_____

3. Why did later builders use stone and brick?

_____

_____

4. What was the wall meant to do?

_____

_____

5. How did soldiers warn the next tower of danger?

_____

_____

6. Why is a wall wide enough to walk on useful?

_____

_____

Words to know

supplies: things people need, such as food and tools

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: _____

The Great Wall of China

Triangle group

The Great Wall of China is one of the longest structures ever built. It stretches across northern China for thousands of miles, over mountains, deserts, and grasslands.

The wall was not built all at once. Different rulers built and repaired sections over many hundreds of years. Early parts were made of packed earth. Later builders used stone and brick, which lasted longer. In places the wall is about twenty feet high, and the top is wide enough for people to walk along.

The wall had a purpose. It helped defend the land against armies coming from the north. Soldiers lived in towers built along the wall. When they spotted danger, they sent signals with smoke and fire to warn the next tower. Guards also used the top of the wall as a road to move soldiers and supplies.

Today, much of the wall still stands. Millions of visitors walk along its ancient stones each year to see its towers and enjoy the views.

Questions

1. How long is the Great Wall of China?

_____

_____

2. Was the wall built all at once?

_____

_____

3. Why did later builders use stone and brick?

_____

_____

4. What was the wall meant to do?

_____

_____

5. How did soldiers warn the next tower of danger?

_____

_____

6. Why would a wall wide enough to walk on be useful?

_____

_____

Words to know

structures: things that have been built, such as walls and bridges
defend: to protect from attack
supplies: things people need, such as food and tools
ancient: very, very old

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: _____

The Great Wall of China

Square group

The Great Wall of China is among the longest structures ever constructed. It extends across northern China for thousands of miles, winding over rugged mountains, scorching deserts, and open grasslands.

The wall was not built all at once. Successive rulers built and repaired sections of it over many hundreds of years. The earliest portions were made of packed earth, whereas later builders used stone and brick, which proved far more durable. In places the wall rises about twenty feet high, and the top is wide enough for people to walk along it.

The wall served an important purpose. It helped defend the land against armies approaching from the north. Soldiers lived in towers built at intervals along the wall, and when they spotted danger, they sent signals with smoke and fire to warn the next tower. Guards also used the top of the wall as a road to move soldiers and supplies.

Today, much of the wall still stands. Millions of visitors walk along its ancient stones each year to admire its towers and enjoy the breathtaking views.

Questions

1. How long is the Great Wall of China?

_____

_____

2. Was the wall built all at once?

_____

_____

3. Why did later builders use stone and brick?

_____

_____

4. What purpose did the wall serve?

_____

_____

5. How did soldiers warn the next tower of danger?

_____

_____

6. Why would a wall wide enough to walk along be useful?

_____

_____

Words to know

structures: things that have been built, such as walls and bridges
defend: to protect from attack
supplies: things people need, such as food and tools
ancient: very, very old

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: The Great Wall of China

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

Circle: The Great Wall of China

Easier · 154 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. Thousands of miles.
2. No. Different rulers built and fixed parts of it over many hundreds of years.
3. They lasted longer than packed earth.
4. Guard the land from armies from the north.
5. With smoke and fire signals.
6. Guards could use the top like a road for soldiers and supplies.

Triangle: The Great Wall of China

This passage · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. Thousands of miles.
2. No. Different rulers built and repaired sections over many hundreds of years.
3. They lasted longer than packed earth.
4. Help defend the land against armies from the north.
5. With signals made of smoke and fire.
6. Guards could use the top like a road to move soldiers and supplies.

Square: The Great Wall of China

Harder · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. Thousands of miles.
2. No. Successive rulers built and repaired sections over many hundreds of years.
3. They were far more durable than packed earth.
4. It helped defend the land against armies approaching from the north.
5. They sent signals with smoke and fire.
6. Guards could use the top as a road to move soldiers and supplies.