Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Cranberries Float at Harvest Time

Circle group

Cranberries grow on low vines in fields called bogs. Some people think the berries grow underwater. They do not. The bog is damp, but it is dry for much of the year.

At harvest time, many growers flood the bog. Cranberries float. Each berry has small pockets of air inside it.

A machine called a beater rolls through the water. It shakes the berries off the vines. The berries bob up to the top. The water looks like a red carpet.

Workers use long booms to push the berries into a corner. A pump or a belt lifts them into a truck.

Some growers flood a bog in winter, too. A blanket of water or ice can keep the vines safe from the cold.

Questions

1. Where do cranberries grow?

_____

_____

2. Why do cranberries float?

_____

_____

3. What does a beater do?

_____

_____

4. How do workers push the floating berries together?

_____

_____

5. Why might a grower flood a bog in winter?

_____

_____

6. Why is flooding a bog a clever way to harvest?

_____

_____

Words to know

bog: a flat, damp field where cranberries grow
harvest: to gather a crop when it is ready
beater: a machine that shakes berries off their vines
booms: long floating bars that push things together on water

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: _____

Why Cranberries Float at Harvest Time

Triangle group

Cranberries grow on low vines in flat, sunken fields called bogs. Many people think the berries grow underwater, but they do not. The vines grow in damp ground, and the fields are dry for much of the year.

At harvest time, many growers flood the bog with water. This works because each cranberry has small pockets of air inside it. Air makes the berries light, so they float.

Next, a machine called a beater rolls through the water. Its spinning parts shake the berries loose from the vines. The berries bob up to the top, and soon the water is covered with a bright red carpet.

Workers then gather the floating berries. They use long booms, which are like floating fences, to push the berries into one corner of the bog. A pump or a conveyor belt lifts them into a truck.

Water helps in another way. Some growers flood a bog in winter, because a blanket of water or ice can protect the vines from bitter cold.

Questions

1. Where do cranberries grow?

_____

_____

2. Why do cranberries float?

_____

_____

3. What does a beater do?

_____

_____

4. How do workers gather the floating berries?

_____

_____

5. Why might a grower flood a bog in winter?

_____

_____

6. Why is flooding a bog a clever way to harvest?

_____

_____

Words to know

bog: a flat, damp field where cranberries grow
harvest: to gather a crop when it is ready
beater: a machine that shakes berries off their vines
booms: long floating bars that push things together on water
conveyor: a moving belt that carries things from place to place

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: _____

Why Cranberries Float at Harvest Time

Square group

Cranberries grow on low, trailing vines in flat, sunken fields known as bogs. Although many people imagine the berries growing underwater, they do not. The vines thrive in damp ground, and for much of the year the fields are actually dry.

When harvest time arrives, many growers flood the bog with water. This method works because every cranberry contains small pockets of air, which make the berries light enough to float.

Next, a machine called a beater rolls slowly through the flooded field. Its spinning parts shake the berries loose from the vines, and the freed berries bob up to the surface. Before long, the water is covered with a bright red carpet.

Workers then gather the floating fruit. They use long booms, which resemble floating fences, to herd the berries into one corner of the bog, where a pump or a conveyor belt lifts them into a waiting truck.

Water is useful in yet another way. Some growers flood a bog in winter, because a blanket of water or ice can shield the vines from bitter cold.

Questions

1. In what kind of field do cranberries grow?

_____

_____

2. What makes cranberries light enough to float?

_____

_____

3. What is the job of a beater in the flooded bog?

_____

_____

4. How do workers herd the floating berries into one corner?

_____

_____

5. Why might a grower flood a bog in the winter?

_____

_____

6. Why is flooding a bog considered a clever way to harvest?

_____

_____

Words to know

bog: a flat, damp field where cranberries grow
harvest: to gather a crop when it is ready
beater: a machine that shakes berries off their vines
booms: long floating bars that push things together on water
conveyor: a moving belt that carries things from place to place

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: Why Cranberries Float at Harvest Time

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

Circle: Why Cranberries Float at Harvest Time

Easier · 124 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. On low vines in fields called bogs.
2. Each berry has small pockets of air inside it.
3. It shakes the berries off the vines.
4. They use long booms.
5. Water or ice can keep the vines safe from the cold.
6. The berries float to the top, so they are easy to gather.

Triangle: Why Cranberries Float at Harvest Time

This passage · 168 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.5

1. On low vines in flat, sunken fields called bogs.
2. Each berry has small pockets of air inside it.
3. It shakes the berries loose from the vines.
4. They use long booms to push the berries into one corner.
5. A blanket of water or ice can protect the vines from bitter cold.
6. The berries float, so they come off the vines and gather on top of the water where they are easy to collect.

Square: Why Cranberries Float at Harvest Time

Harder · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. In flat, sunken fields called bogs.
2. Each berry contains small pockets of air.
3. It shakes the berries loose from the vines.
4. They use long booms that resemble floating fences.
5. A blanket of water or ice can shield the vines from bitter cold.
6. The berries float free of the vines and collect on the water, which makes them easy to gather.