Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Water Towers Stand So High

Circle group

Many towns have a tall tank on legs above the rooftops. It looks like a giant barrel in the sky. This is a water tower. It helps water get to your faucet.

Water is kept in the tank, high above the ground. Gravity pulls the water down through the pipes to homes, schools, and stores. The weight of the water makes it push through the pipes. When you turn on a faucet, the water flows out. Only gravity pushes it.

A water tower is also a backup. Pumps fill the tank, often at night when people use less water. In the day, many families cook, wash, and shower. The tower gives extra water at once. If the power goes out, the water can still flow for a while.

The higher the tank, the more force the water has. That is why engineers build towers on tall legs or on hills.

Questions

1. What job does a water tower do?

_____

_____

2. What pulls the water down the pipes?

_____

_____

3. When are tanks often filled?

_____

_____

4. Why is a water tower a backup?

_____

_____

5. What makes the water push harder?

_____

_____

6. Why might engineers build a tower on a hill?

_____

_____

Words to know

tank: a large container that holds water or another liquid
gravity: the pull that draws things toward the ground
engineers: people who plan and design buildings and machines

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 Water Towers Stand So High

Triangle group

Many towns have a tall tank on legs standing over the rooftops. It looks like a giant barrel in the sky. This is a water tower, and it does an important job: it helps water get to your faucet.

Water is stored inside the tank, high above the ground. Because the water sits up high, gravity pulls it downward through the pipes that lead to homes, schools, and stores. The weight of the water makes it push through the pipes with force. When you turn on a faucet, the water flows out without anything pushing it except gravity.

A water tower is also a backup. Pumps fill the tank, often at night when people use less water. During the day, when many families are cooking, washing, and showering, the tower supplies extra water at once. If the power goes out, the water in the tank can still flow for a while.

The higher the tank, the more force the water has. That is why engineers build towers on tall legs or on top of hills.

Questions

1. What job does a water tower do?

_____

_____

2. What pulls the water down through the pipes?

_____

_____

3. When are the tanks often filled?

_____

_____

4. Why is a water tower called a backup?

_____

_____

5. What makes the water push harder through the pipes?

_____

_____

6. Why might engineers build a water tower on top of a hill?

_____

_____

Words to know

tank: a large container that holds water or another liquid
gravity: the pull that draws things toward the ground
supplies: gives what is needed
engineers: people who plan and design buildings and machines

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 Water Towers Stand So High

Square group

Many towns have a tall tank perched on legs high above the rooftops, resembling an enormous barrel in the sky. This structure is a water tower, and it performs an important task: it helps deliver water to the faucets in your home.

The water is stored inside the tank, far above the ground. Because it sits so high, gravity draws it downward through the network of pipes that lead to homes, schools, and stores, and the weight of the water forces it along with considerable pressure. When you turn on a faucet, the water streams out with nothing pushing it except gravity.

A water tower also serves as a backup. Pumps fill the tank, frequently at night when people use less water. During the day, when many families are cooking, washing, and showering, the tower can supply extra water all at once. If the electricity fails, the water stored in the tank can continue to flow for a while.

The higher the tank, the greater the force the water carries. That is why engineers construct water towers on tall legs or on top of hills.

Questions

1. What important task does a water tower perform?

_____

_____

2. What draws the water down through the pipes?

_____

_____

3. When are the tanks frequently filled?

_____

_____

4. In what way is a water tower a backup?

_____

_____

5. What gives the water more force in the pipes?

_____

_____

6. Why might engineers build a water tower on top of a hill?

_____

_____

Words to know

tank: a large container that holds water or another liquid
gravity: the pull that draws things toward the ground
engineers: people who plan and design buildings and machines

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 Water Towers Stand So High

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

Circle: Why Water Towers Stand So High

Easier · 150 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. It keeps water up high and helps water get to faucets.
2. Gravity.
3. At night, when people use less water.
4. It holds extra water for busy times and can keep water flowing for a while if the power goes out.
5. A higher tank gives the water more force.
6. The extra height gives the water more force.

Triangle: Why Water Towers Stand So High

This passage · 175 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. It stores water high up and helps water get to faucets.
2. Gravity.
3. At night, when people use less water.
4. It holds extra water for busy times and can keep water flowing for a while if the power goes out.
5. A higher tank gives the water more force.
6. The extra height gives the water more force.

Square: Why Water Towers Stand So High

Harder · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. It stores water high up and helps deliver water to faucets.
2. Gravity.
3. At night, when people use less water.
4. It holds extra water for busy times and keeps water flowing for a while if the power fails.
5. A higher tank.
6. The added height gives the water greater force.