Name: _____ Date: _____

# Cutting Winter Ice for Summer Drinks

Circle group

Long ago, homes had no refrigerators. How did people keep food cold in summer? In the 1800s, in snowy places, they used ice from frozen lakes and ponds.

When the ice was thick, workers came with saws and horses. They marked the ice in squares and sawed it into big blocks. They floated the blocks to the shore with long poles. Then they slid them up a ramp into an icehouse.

In the icehouse, the blocks were stacked in rows. Sawdust was packed in between. Sawdust works like a blanket. It slows the heat. The walls were thick, too. The ice could last all summer.

In summer, a worker brought ice to homes and shops in a wagon. Families put a block in an icebox. This was a wooden cabinet with a space for ice. The melting ice kept the food cool. A pan caught the drips. Some ice went by boat to far cities. Later, machines made ice, and electric refrigerators took the place of iceboxes.

## Questions

**1. Where did people get ice in the 1800s?**

_____

_____

**2. What was the building for storing ice called?**

_____

_____

**3. What was packed between the blocks?**

_____

_____

**4. How did families use an icebox?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does the passage say sawdust is like a blanket?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did iceboxes go out of use?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

icehouse: a building where blocks of ice were stored
sawdust: tiny bits of wood made when wood is sawed
ramp: a slanted path that joins a low place to a high one
icebox: a wooden cabinet that kept food cold with a block of ice

## 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: _____

# Cutting Winter Ice for Summer Drinks

Triangle group

Before homes had refrigerators, how did people keep food cold in the summer? In the 1800s, in places with snowy winters, the answer was ice cut from frozen lakes and ponds.

When the ice grew thick enough, workers headed out with saws and horses. They marked the ice in squares and sawed it into big blocks. Using long poles, they floated the blocks to the shore and slid them up a ramp into a building called an icehouse.

Inside the icehouse, the blocks were stacked in rows with sawdust packed in between. Sawdust works like a blanket, because it slows the heat from getting in. Thick walls helped too. Stored this way, ice could last all through the warm months.

In summer, a delivery worker brought blocks of ice to homes and shops in a wagon. Families set a block in an icebox, a wooden cabinet with a space for ice. As the ice melted, it kept the food cool, and a pan caught the drips. Some ice was even shipped by boat to far-off cities. Later, machines learned to make ice, and electric refrigerators took the place of the old iceboxes.

## Questions

**1. Where did people get ice in the 1800s?**

_____

_____

**2. What was the building called where the blocks were stored?**

_____

_____

**3. What was packed between the blocks of ice?**

_____

_____

**4. How did families use an icebox?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does the passage say sawdust works like a blanket?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did iceboxes go out of use?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

icehouse: a building where blocks of ice were stored
sawdust: tiny bits of wood made when wood is sawed
ramp: a slanted path that joins a low place to a high one
icebox: a wooden cabinet that kept food cold with a block of ice
delivery: the act of bringing something to a 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: _____

# Cutting Winter Ice for Summer Drinks

Square group

Before refrigerators existed in people's homes, how did families manage to keep their food cold during the summer? In the 1800s, in regions where winters were snowy, the solution was ice harvested from frozen lakes and ponds.

Once the ice had grown thick enough, workers ventured out with saws and horses. They marked the surface in squares and sawed it into enormous blocks. Using long poles, they floated the blocks to the shore and guided them up a ramp into a building called an icehouse.

Inside the icehouse, the blocks were stacked in rows with sawdust packed tightly between them. Sawdust functions like a blanket, because it slows the movement of heat into the ice, and thick walls helped as well. Stored this way, the ice could last throughout the warm months.

During the summer, a delivery worker transported blocks of ice to homes and shops by wagon. Families placed a block inside an icebox, a wooden cabinet with a compartment for ice. As the ice melted, it kept the food cool, while a pan collected the drips. Some ice was even shipped by boat to distant cities. Eventually, machines learned to produce ice, and electric refrigerators replaced the old iceboxes.

## Questions

**1. Where did people obtain ice in the 1800s?**

_____

_____

**2. What was the building where the blocks were stored called?**

_____

_____

**3. What material was packed tightly between the blocks of ice?**

_____

_____

**4. How did families use an icebox in their homes?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does the passage compare sawdust to a blanket?**

_____

_____

**6. Why were iceboxes eventually replaced?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

icehouse: a building where blocks of ice were stored
sawdust: tiny bits of wood made when wood is sawed
ramp: a slanted path that joins a low place to a high one
icebox: a wooden cabinet that kept food cold with a block of ice
delivery: the act of bringing something to a 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: Cutting Winter Ice for Summer Drinks

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

### Circle: Cutting Winter Ice for Summer Drinks

Easier · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. From frozen lakes and ponds.
2. An icehouse.
3. Sawdust.
4. They put a block of ice in it to keep food cool.
5. It slows heat, so the ice does not melt fast.
6. Machines made ice and electric refrigerators took their place.

### Triangle: Cutting Winter Ice for Summer Drinks

This passage · 193 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. They cut it from frozen lakes and ponds.
2. An icehouse.
3. Sawdust.
4. They put a block of ice in it to keep food cool.
5. It slows heat from getting in, which keeps the ice from melting fast.
6. Machines could make ice and electric refrigerators replaced them.

### Square: Cutting Winter Ice for Summer Drinks

Harder · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.8

1. They harvested it from frozen lakes and ponds.
2. An icehouse.
3. Sawdust.
4. They placed a block of ice inside it to keep food cool.
5. It slows the movement of heat into the ice, so the ice melts more slowly.
6. Machines could produce ice and electric refrigerators took their place.