Name: _____ Date: _____

Eleven Pennies on the Lock Beam

Circle group

Ravi spent every summer morning with his uncle. His uncle kept the canal lock at Marsh End. The lock was a stone box full of water with a big wooden gate at each end. A boat floated in. The gates closed. Then the water rose or fell to lift the boat to the next part of the canal.

One Monday, Ravi found a penny on the long wooden beam of the lower gate. On Tuesday there were three. On Wednesday there were seven. No one in town said they left them.

"Someone is counting something," Ravi said.

He looked for clues. The pennies sat in a neat row. The beam was damp. The winding handle for the gate hung on the wrong hook, and mud was on its grip. His uncle always hung it on the left hook.

"Uncle Osei, does anyone work the lock at night?"

"Only the boat crews," said his uncle. "When I sleep, they wind the gates themselves. They leave a penny to say thank you."

Then Ravi saw it. "One penny for each boat!" On Thursday there were eleven. Many boats had come home from the harbor festival.

Ravi made a tally on the lockhouse wall. At the end of summer, they used the pennies to buy green paint for the gates.

Questions

1. What does a canal lock do for a boat?

_____

_____

2. Where did Ravi find the first penny?

_____

_____

3. How many pennies were there on Wednesday?

_____

_____

4. Who left the pennies?

_____

_____

5. What clue showed that someone worked the gate at night?

_____

_____

6. Why were there so many pennies on Thursday?

_____

_____

Words to know

canal: a long channel of water dug for boats
lock: a section of a canal where the water level can be changed
beam: a long, strong piece of wood
crews: the groups of people who work on a boat
tally: a count kept by making marks

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: _____

Eleven Pennies on the Lock Beam

Triangle group

Ravi spent every summer morning with his uncle, who kept the canal lock at Marsh End. The lock was a stone box full of water with a heavy wooden gate at each end. A boat floated in, the gates closed, and the water rose or fell to lift the boat to the next stretch of canal.

One Monday, Ravi found a penny lying on the long wooden beam of the lower gate. On Tuesday there were three. On Wednesday there were seven. Nobody in town admitted to leaving them.

"Someone is counting something," Ravi said.

He looked for clues. The pennies sat in a neat row, and the beam around them was damp. The winding handle for the gate hung on the wrong hook, and its grip was smeared with canal mud. His uncle always hung it on the left hook.

"Uncle Osei, does anyone work the lock at night?"

"Only the boat crews," said his uncle. "When I am asleep, they wind the gates themselves, and they leave a penny to say thank you."

Then Ravi understood. "One penny for each boat!" On Thursday morning there were eleven, because a crowd of boats had come home from the harbor festival upriver.

Ravi started a tally on the lockhouse wall. At the end of summer, they used the pennies to buy a can of bright green paint for the gates.

Questions

1. What does a canal lock do for a boat?

_____

_____

2. Where did Ravi find the first penny?

_____

_____

3. How many pennies were on the beam on Wednesday?

_____

_____

4. Who left the pennies, and when?

_____

_____

5. What clue showed Ravi that someone had worked the gate at night?

_____

_____

6. Why did the number of pennies grow so much by Thursday?

_____

_____

Words to know

canal: a long channel of water dug for boats
lock: a section of a canal where the water level can be changed
beam: a long, strong piece of wood
crews: the groups of people who work on a boat
tally: a count kept by making marks

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: _____

Eleven Pennies on the Lock Beam

Square group

Ravi spent every summer morning with his uncle, who tended the canal lock at Marsh End. The lock was a stone chamber filled with water, with a massive wooden gate at each end. A boat would drift in, the gates would swing shut, and the water would slowly rise or fall to carry the boat to the next stretch of canal.

One Monday, Ravi discovered a single penny lying on the long wooden beam of the lower gate. On Tuesday there were three. On Wednesday there were seven. Nobody in town would admit to leaving them.

"Someone is counting something," Ravi announced.

He searched for clues. The pennies sat in a tidy row, and the beam around them was damp with dew. The winding handle for the gate hung on the wrong hook, and its grip was smeared with canal mud. His uncle always hung it on the left hook, without fail.

"Uncle Osei, does anyone operate the lock at night?"

"Only the boat crews," his uncle replied. "While I am asleep, they wind the gates themselves, and they leave a penny behind to say thank you."

Suddenly Ravi understood. "One penny for each boat!" By Thursday morning there were eleven, because a whole crowd of boats had come home from the harbor festival upriver.

Ravi began keeping a tally on the lockhouse wall. When summer ended, they spent the pennies on a can of bright green paint for the gates.

Questions

1. What does a canal lock do for a boat?

_____

_____

2. Where did Ravi discover the first penny?

_____

_____

3. How many pennies lay on the beam on Wednesday?

_____

_____

4. Who was leaving the pennies, and when?

_____

_____

5. What clue told Ravi that someone had operated the gate during the night?

_____

_____

6. Why had the pile of pennies grown so large by Thursday?

_____

_____

Words to know

canal: a long channel of water dug for boats
lock: a section of a canal where the water level can be changed
beam: a long, strong piece of wood
crews: the groups of people who work on a boat
tally: a count kept by making marks

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: Eleven Pennies on the Lock Beam

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

Circle: Eleven Pennies on the Lock Beam

Easier · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. It raises or lowers the water to lift the boat to the next part of the canal.
2. On the beam of the lower gate.
3. Seven.
4. The boat crews, at night, after they wound the gates themselves.
5. The handle was on the wrong hook and had mud on it.
6. Many boats came home from the festival, and each crew left one penny.

Triangle: Eleven Pennies on the Lock Beam

This passage · 230 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. It raises or lowers the water to lift the boat to the next stretch of canal.
2. On the long wooden beam of the lower gate.
3. Seven.
4. Boat crews left them at night after winding the gates themselves.
5. The winding handle hung on the wrong hook and had mud on its grip.
6. Many boats were coming home from the festival, and each crew left one penny.

Square: Eleven Pennies on the Lock Beam

Harder · 241 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. It raises or lowers the water to carry the boat to the next stretch of canal.
2. On the long wooden beam of the lower gate.
3. Seven.
4. Boat crews, at night, after winding the gates themselves.
5. The winding handle was on the wrong hook and its grip was smeared with mud.
6. A crowd of boats had come home from the festival, and each crew left one penny.