Name: _____ Date: _____

Getting Around Venice Without Cars

Circle group

Venice, in Italy, is built on small islands in a shallow lagoon. It has canals, narrow lanes, and little bridges instead of long roads. Cars, trucks, and buses cannot enter the old part of the city. People go on foot or by boat.

The main waterway is the Grand Canal. It curves through the city like an S. Water buses called vaporetti carry passengers from stop to stop. Small taxi boats go where a rider wants. Long, thin boats called gondolas carry visitors on quiet canals.

Boats do other jobs, too. Delivery boats bring food and furniture. Other boats carry fire fighters, doctors, and trash collectors.

Walking is the other main way to travel. A short walk may cross many small bridges. The lanes twist, so visitors get lost. Locals know the shortcuts.

In Venice, the streets are water. Life moves as fast as an oar or a walking step.

Questions

1. What is Venice built on?

_____

_____

2. What are vaporetti?

_____

_____

3. What shape does the Grand Canal make?

_____

_____

4. Can you name two jobs boats do besides carrying visitors?

_____

_____

5. Why can cars not enter the old city?

_____

_____

6. Why might a visitor get lost in Venice?

_____

_____

Words to know

lagoon: a shallow body of water partly cut off from the sea
canal: a waterway made for boats
passenger: a person who rides in a vehicle but does not drive it
gondola: a long, narrow boat pushed with one oar
shortcut: a quicker way to get somewhere

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: _____

Getting Around Venice Without Cars

Triangle group

Venice, in Italy, is a city built on a group of small islands in a shallow lagoon. Instead of long roads, it has canals, narrow lanes, and little bridges. Cars, trucks, and buses cannot enter the old part of the city at all. Everyone gets around on foot or by boat.

The main waterway is the Grand Canal, which curves through the city in the shape of an S. Water buses called vaporetti carry passengers from stop to stop, like city buses on a street. Small taxi boats go wherever a rider wants. Long, thin boats called gondolas carry visitors slowly along the quieter canals.

Boats do other jobs, too. Delivery boats bring groceries and furniture. Others carry fire fighters, doctors, and trash collectors. Even a moving day can be a boat trip.

Walking is the other main way to travel. A person might cross dozens of small bridges on a short walk, and the lanes can twist so much that visitors easily lose their way. Locals know the shortcuts by heart.

Venice shows that a city can work in a very different way from most. When the streets are water, life moves at the pace of an oar or a walking step.

Questions

1. What is Venice built on?

_____

_____

2. What are vaporetti?

_____

_____

3. What shape does the Grand Canal make?

_____

_____

4. Can you name two jobs that boats do besides carrying visitors?

_____

_____

5. Why can cars not be used in the old part of the city?

_____

_____

6. Why might a visitor find it easy to get lost in Venice?

_____

_____

Words to know

lagoon: a shallow body of water partly cut off from the sea
canal: a waterway made for boats
passenger: a person who rides in a vehicle but does not drive it
gondola: a long, narrow boat pushed with one oar
shortcut: a quicker way to get somewhere

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: _____

Getting Around Venice Without Cars

Square group

Venice, in Italy, is a city constructed on a group of small islands in a shallow lagoon. Instead of long roads, it has canals, narrow lanes, and arched little bridges. Cars, trucks, and buses are not permitted to enter the old part of the city at all, so everyone travels on foot or by boat.

The principal waterway is the Grand Canal, which curves through the city in the shape of an S. Water buses called vaporetti carry passengers from stop to stop, much as city buses do on a street. Small taxi boats go wherever a rider wishes, and long, slender boats called gondolas carry visitors gently along the quieter canals.

Boats perform many other tasks as well. Delivery boats bring groceries and furniture, while others transport fire fighters, doctors, and trash collectors. Even a family's moving day can turn into a boat trip.

Walking is the other major way to travel. A person might cross dozens of small bridges on a short stroll, and the lanes can twist so much that visitors easily lose their way. Locals, however, know the shortcuts by heart.

Venice shows that a city can function in a completely different manner from most. When the streets are made of water, life moves at the pace of an oar or a walking step.

Questions

1. What is Venice constructed on?

_____

_____

2. What are vaporetti?

_____

_____

3. What shape does the Grand Canal form?

_____

_____

4. Can you name two tasks that boats perform besides carrying visitors?

_____

_____

5. Why are cars not permitted in the old part of the city?

_____

_____

6. Why might a visitor easily lose the way in Venice?

_____

_____

Words to know

lagoon: a shallow body of water partly cut off from the sea
canal: a waterway made for boats
passenger: a person who rides in a vehicle but does not drive it
gondola: a long, narrow boat pushed with one oar
shortcut: a quicker way to get somewhere

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: Getting Around Venice Without Cars

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

Circle: Getting Around Venice Without Cars

Easier · 150 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. Small islands in a shallow lagoon.
2. Water buses that carry passengers.
3. An S shape.
4. Delivering food and furniture, or carrying doctors, fire fighters, or trash collectors.
5. It has canals, lanes, and little bridges instead of long roads.
6. The lanes twist and there are many small bridges.

Triangle: Getting Around Venice Without Cars

This passage · 203 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. A group of small islands in a shallow lagoon.
2. Water buses that carry passengers.
3. An S shape.
4. Delivering groceries and furniture, or carrying doctors, fire fighters, or trash collectors.
5. It has canals, narrow lanes, and little bridges instead of long roads.
6. The lanes twist a lot and there are many small bridges.

Square: Getting Around Venice Without Cars

Harder · 218 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.8

1. A group of small islands in a shallow lagoon.
2. Water buses that carry passengers.
3. An S shape.
4. Delivering groceries and furniture, or carrying doctors, fire fighters, or trash collectors.
5. It has canals, narrow lanes, and little bridges instead of long roads.
6. The lanes twist a great deal and there are many small bridges.