Name: _____ Date: _____

The Inspector Who Checks the Stair Railing

Circle group

When a family builds a new house, the walls do not go up all at once. Along the way, a building inspector comes to look at the work. This person works for the town or county. The visits keep people safe.

The inspector follows a set of rules called the building code. A building code lists what a building needs to be safe. It may say how strong a stair railing must be. It may say where smoke alarms must go.

Timing matters. Many parts of a house are hidden once the walls are closed. Wires, pipes and the frame are behind the paint. No one can see them later. So the inspector checks each part before it is covered. The builder must wait for approval before moving on.

Say the inspector finds a stair railing that wobbles. The builder gets a note that tells what to fix. The builder tightens the railing and calls for another visit. When the railing is solid, the inspector approves it.

Some builders think this is slow. But codes are written to prevent harm. An inspector looks with fresh eyes. Builders can miss things when they are busy. A family may never meet the inspector, but they are safer because of the visits.

Questions

1. Who does a building inspector work for?

_____

_____

2. What is a building code?

_____

_____

3. Why does the inspector check wires and pipes before the walls are closed?

_____

_____

4. What does the builder do after the inspector finds a wobbly railing?

_____

_____

5. Why does it help to have a second person check the work?

_____

_____

6. How does a family gain even if it never meets the inspector?

_____

_____

Words to know

inspector: a person whose job is to check that work is done right
code: a set of official rules
approval: official permission to go ahead
wobbles: shakes or moves from side to side

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: _____

The Inspector Who Checks the Stair Railing

Triangle group

When a family builds a new house, the walls do not go up all at once. Along the way, a building inspector visits to look at the work. This person works for the town or county, and the visits keep people safe.

The inspector follows a set of rules called the building code. A building code lists what is needed to make a building safe. For instance, it may say how strong a staircase railing must be, or where smoke alarms must be placed.

Timing matters. Many parts of a house are hidden once the walls are closed. Wires, pipes and the frame lie behind the plaster and paint, and no one can easily see them later. So the inspector checks each part before it is covered. A builder must wait for approval before moving on.

Suppose the inspector finds a stair railing that wobbles. The builder gets a note that tells what to fix. The builder tightens the railing and calls for another visit. When the railing is solid, the inspector approves it.

Some builders find this slow. But the codes are written to prevent harm, and an inspector looks with fresh eyes, since builders can miss things when they are busy. Families who live in the house later may never meet the inspector, but they are safer because of the visits.

Questions

1. Who does a building inspector work for?

_____

_____

2. What is a building code?

_____

_____

3. Why does the inspector look at wires and pipes before the walls are closed?

_____

_____

4. What does the builder do after the inspector finds a wobbly railing?

_____

_____

5. Why does a second person checking the work help?

_____

_____

6. How do families benefit even if they never meet the inspector?

_____

_____

Words to know

inspector: a person whose job is to check that work is done right
code: a set of official rules
staircase: a set of steps that leads up or down
approval: official permission to go ahead
wobbles: shakes or moves from side to side

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: _____

The Inspector Who Checks the Stair Railing

Square group

When a family builds a new house, the walls do not rise all at once. Throughout the project, a building inspector visits to examine the work. This person is employed by the town or county, and the visits help keep people safe.

The inspector follows a set of regulations known as the building code. A building code lists what is required to make a structure safe. For instance, it may specify how strong a staircase railing must be, or where smoke alarms should be placed.

Timing is important. Many parts of a house are concealed once the walls are closed. Wires, pipes and the frame lie behind the plaster and paint, where no one can easily inspect them later. For that reason, the inspector checks each part before it is covered, and a builder must wait for approval before continuing.

Suppose the inspector discovers a stair railing that wobbles. The builder receives a note explaining what must be fixed. The builder tightens the railing and requests another visit. Once the railing is solid, the inspector approves it.

Some builders consider this process slow. However, the codes were written to prevent harm, and an inspector looks with fresh eyes, since builders can overlook things when they are busy. The family who lives in the house later may never meet the inspector, yet they are safer because of those visits.

Questions

1. Who employs a building inspector?

_____

_____

2. What is a building code?

_____

_____

3. Why does the inspector examine wires and pipes before the walls are closed?

_____

_____

4. What does the builder do after the inspector finds a railing that wobbles?

_____

_____

5. Why is it valuable to have a second person check the builder's work?

_____

_____

6. How does a family benefit even if it never meets the inspector?

_____

_____

Words to know

inspector: a person whose job is to check that work is done right
code: a set of official rules
staircase: a set of steps that leads up or down
approval: official permission to go ahead
wobbles: shakes or moves from side to side

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: The Inspector Who Checks the Stair Railing

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

Circle: The Inspector Who Checks the Stair Railing

Easier · 209 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. The town or county.
2. A list of what a building needs to be safe.
3. They are hidden once covered and no one can see them later.
4. Tightens it and calls for another visit.
5. Builders can miss things when they are busy.
6. The house was checked and is safer to live in.

Triangle: The Inspector Who Checks the Stair Railing

This passage · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. The town or county.
2. A list of what is needed to make a building safe.
3. They are hidden once covered and no one can easily see them later.
4. Tightens it and calls for another visit.
5. Builders can miss things when they are busy.
6. The house was checked and is safer to live in.

Square: The Inspector Who Checks the Stair Railing

Harder · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. The town or county.
2. A list of what is required to make a structure safe.
3. They are concealed once covered and no one can easily inspect them later.
4. Tightens the railing and requests another visit.
5. Builders can overlook things when they are busy.
6. The house was checked, so it is safer to live in.