Name: _____ Date: _____

The Inspector's Sticker on the Grocery Scale

Circle group

Have you seen a worker weigh apples on a scale? You trust the scale to be right. If it showed too much, you would pay for apples you did not get. If it showed too little, the store would lose money. Either way, someone is cheated.

Many places send an inspector to check scales and gas pumps. The inspector brings test weights. These weights were checked against a standard. A standard is an example that everyone trusts. The inspector puts the weights on the scale. Then the inspector sees if the scale reads right.

Gas pumps get a test too. The inspector pumps fuel into a container. The container holds an exact amount. If the pump and the container do not match, the pump needs repair.

If a scale or pump passes, the inspector puts a sticker on it with a date. If it fails, the owner must fix it first. This check keeps the measure fair.

Questions

1. What does an inspector check?

_____

_____

2. What does the inspector put on a scale to test it?

_____

_____

3. How does the inspector test a gas pump?

_____

_____

4. What must the owner do if a scale fails?

_____

_____

5. Why is a fair scale good for shoppers and stores?

_____

_____

6. Why are the test weights checked against a standard?

_____

_____

Words to know

inspector: a person whose job is to check that things are done right
standard: an example that everyone agrees to trust
cheated: treated in an unfair way
repair: to fix something that is broken
fuel: something burned to make an engine run, like gasoline

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's Sticker on the Grocery Scale

Triangle group

Have you ever watched a grocery worker weigh apples on a scale? You trust the scale to tell the truth. If it showed too much, you would pay for apples you never got. If it showed too little, the store would lose money. Either way, someone is cheated.

To keep things fair, many places send an inspector to check scales, gas pumps and other measuring tools. This person is often called a weights and measures inspector. The inspector carries a set of special test weights. Each one has been checked against a standard, which is an example that everyone agrees to trust. The inspector sets the weights on a scale to see whether it reads correctly.

Gas pumps get a similar test. The inspector pumps fuel into a container that holds an exact, known amount. If the pump says one amount and the container shows another, the pump needs repair.

When a scale or pump passes, the inspector puts a small sticker on it with a date. If it fails, the owner must fix it before using it again. Because of this simple check, shoppers can buy by weight or by the gallon and know the measure is fair.

Questions

1. What does a weights and measures inspector check?

_____

_____

2. What does the inspector use to test a scale?

_____

_____

3. How is a gas pump tested?

_____

_____

4. What must an owner do if a scale fails the test?

_____

_____

5. Why does a fair scale help both shoppers and stores?

_____

_____

6. Why must the test weights be checked against a standard?

_____

_____

Words to know

inspector: a person whose job is to check that things are done right
standard: an example that everyone agrees to trust
cheated: treated in an unfair way
repair: to fix something that is broken
fuel: something burned to make an engine run, like gasoline

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's Sticker on the Grocery Scale

Square group

Have you ever watched a grocery worker weigh a bag of apples on a scale? Without thinking about it, you trust that scale to tell the truth. If it displayed too much, you would be charged for apples you never received. If it displayed too little, the store would quietly lose money. In either case, somebody is being cheated.

To keep trade fair, many communities employ an inspector to examine scales, gas pumps and other measuring tools. This person is often called a weights and measures inspector. The inspector brings along a collection of special test weights, each of which has been checked against a standard, meaning an example that everyone has agreed to trust. By placing those weights on a scale, the inspector can tell whether it reads correctly.

Gas pumps are tested in a similar manner. The inspector pumps fuel into a container that holds an exact, known amount. If the pump claims one amount while the container shows another, the pump must be repaired.

When a scale or pump passes the test, the inspector attaches a small sticker with a date. When it fails, the owner has to fix it before it can be used again. Thanks to this simple check, shoppers can buy by weight or by the gallon and feel confident that the measure is fair.

Questions

1. What kinds of tools does a weights and measures inspector examine?

_____

_____

2. What does the inspector place on a scale to test it, and how were those items checked?

_____

_____

3. How does the inspector test a gas pump?

_____

_____

4. What must an owner do when a scale fails the inspection?

_____

_____

5. In what way does an accurate scale protect both shoppers and stores?

_____

_____

6. Why does it matter that the test weights come from a trusted standard?

_____

_____

Words to know

inspector: a person whose job is to check that things are done right
standard: an example that everyone agrees to trust
cheated: treated in an unfair way
repair: to fix something that is broken
fuel: something burned to make an engine run, like gasoline

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's Sticker on the Grocery Scale

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

Circle: The Inspector's Sticker on the Grocery Scale

Easier · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. Scales and gas pumps.
2. Test weights that were checked against a standard.
3. By pumping fuel into a container that holds an exact amount.
4. Fix it first.
5. Shoppers do not pay for things they did not get, and stores are not paid too little.
6. So everyone can trust that the weights are right.

Triangle: The Inspector's Sticker on the Grocery Scale

This passage · 199 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. Scales, gas pumps and other measuring tools.
2. Special test weights that were checked against a standard.
3. Fuel is pumped into a container that holds an exact, known amount.
4. Fix it before using it again.
5. Shoppers do not pay for things they never got, and stores are not paid too little.
6. So everyone can trust that the weights are correct.

Square: The Inspector's Sticker on the Grocery Scale

Harder · 221 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.3

1. Scales, gas pumps and other measuring tools.
2. Special test weights that were checked against a standard.
3. By pumping fuel into a container that holds an exact, known amount and comparing the two.
4. Fix it before it can be used again.
5. Shoppers do not pay for goods they never received, and stores are not paid too little.
6. Everyone can be sure that the weights, and so the test, are correct.