Name: _____ Date: _____

Lake Baikal, the Deepest Lake in Siberia

Circle group

Lake Baikal is in the cold southern part of Siberia, in Russia. It is long and curved, like a crescent moon. It is the deepest lake on Earth. It also holds more fresh water than any other lake.

The water is very clear. On a calm day, a diver can see far down. Scientists think the lake is very old. Many plants and animals in it live nowhere else. One is the nerpa, a small seal that lives in fresh water, not in the sea.

Winter changes the lake. It gets so cold that the top freezes into thick ice. The ice is often clear, with cracks like glass. When it is firm, people walk and drive on it like a road. Fishing and travel go on all season.

In spring, the ice melts and breaks apart. Boats come back to the water.

One lake can matter to a region as much as a mountain or a river.

Questions

1. Where is Lake Baikal?

_____

_____

2. What is the most famous fact about Baikal?

_____

_____

3. What is a nerpa?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the lake in winter?

_____

_____

5. Why can people travel on the lake in winter?

_____

_____

6. Why might many of its animals live nowhere else?

_____

_____

Words to know

Siberia: a huge, cold region in the north of Russia
crescent: a curved shape like the moon when it is a thin slice
firm: solid and hard enough to hold weight

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: _____

Lake Baikal, the Deepest Lake in Siberia

Triangle group

Lake Baikal lies in the cold southern part of Siberia, in Russia. It is long and curved, a little like a crescent moon. Its most famous fact is its depth. Baikal is the deepest lake on Earth, and it holds more fresh water than any other lake.

The water is very clear. On a calm day, a diver can see far down into it. Scientists think the lake is also extremely old, and many of the plants and animals in it live nowhere else. One example is the nerpa, a small seal that lives in fresh water instead of the sea.

Winter changes the lake completely. The weather is so cold that the surface freezes into a thick sheet of ice. The ice is often clear, and cracks run across it like glass. Local people drive and walk on it as if it were a road, once it is firm enough. Fishing and travel go on all season.

In spring, the ice slowly melts and breaks apart. The lake then wakes up again, and boats return to the water.

Baikal is a reminder that a single lake can be as important to a region as a mountain or a river.

Questions

1. Where is Lake Baikal?

_____

_____

2. What is the most famous fact about Baikal?

_____

_____

3. What is a nerpa?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the lake in winter?

_____

_____

5. Why can people travel on the lake in winter?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think many of its plants and animals live nowhere else?

_____

_____

Words to know

Siberia: a huge, cold region in the north of Russia
crescent: a curved shape like the moon when it is a thin slice
depth: how far down something goes from the top
surface: the top layer of something
firm: solid and hard enough to hold weight

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: _____

Lake Baikal, the Deepest Lake in Siberia

Square group

Lake Baikal lies in the frigid southern part of Siberia, in Russia. It is long and curved, somewhat like a crescent moon. Its most famous characteristic is its depth: Baikal is the deepest lake on Earth, and it holds more fresh water than any other lake.

The water is remarkably clear. On a calm day, a diver can see far down into it. Scientists believe the lake is also extremely old, and many of the plants and animals in it exist nowhere else. One example is the nerpa, a small seal that lives in fresh water instead of the sea.

Winter transforms the lake completely. The weather becomes so cold that the surface freezes into a thick sheet of ice. The ice is often clear, and cracks race across it like fractures in glass. Once it is firm enough, local people drive and walk on it as though it were a road, and fishing and travel continue throughout the season.

In spring, the ice slowly melts and breaks apart. The lake then wakes up again, and boats return to the water.

Baikal is a reminder that a single lake can be as important to a region as a mountain range or a great river.

Questions

1. Where does Lake Baikal lie?

_____

_____

2. What is the most famous characteristic of Baikal?

_____

_____

3. What is a nerpa?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the lake during winter?

_____

_____

5. Why are people able to travel across the lake in winter?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think many of its plants and animals exist nowhere else?

_____

_____

Words to know

Siberia: a huge, cold region in the north of Russia
crescent: a curved shape like the moon when it is a thin slice
depth: how far down something goes from the top
surface: the top layer of something
firm: solid and hard enough to hold weight

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: Lake Baikal, the Deepest Lake in Siberia

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

Circle: Lake Baikal, the Deepest Lake in Siberia

Easier · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. In the cold southern part of Siberia, in Russia.
2. It is the deepest lake on Earth.
3. A small seal that lives in fresh water.
4. The top freezes into thick ice.
5. The ice is firm enough to hold them, like a road.
6. The lake is old and set apart, so they grew up there alone.

Triangle: Lake Baikal, the Deepest Lake in Siberia

This passage · 200 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. In the cold southern part of Siberia, in Russia.
2. It is the deepest lake on Earth.
3. A small seal that lives in fresh water.
4. The surface freezes into a thick sheet of ice.
5. The ice becomes firm enough to carry them, like a road.
6. The lake is very old and set apart, so its living things developed there on their own.

Square: Lake Baikal, the Deepest Lake in Siberia

Harder · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. In the frigid southern part of Siberia, in Russia.
2. It is the deepest lake on Earth.
3. A small seal that lives in fresh water instead of the sea.
4. The surface freezes into a thick sheet of ice.
5. The ice becomes firm enough to carry them, like a road.
6. The lake is very old and set apart, so its living things developed there on their own.