Name: _____ Date: _____

Mateo Gets Lost on Purpose

Circle group

Mateo had never been lost on purpose. At the meet, each runner got a map, a compass, and a card with boxes. Nine flags were hidden in the park. Next to each flag was a little punch. It made a mark on your card to show you had been there.

"Find north first," said Coach Imani. "Turn the map to match. Then look for the next flag."

Mateo did not listen. He ran straight for the first flag and landed in a thorny patch of bushes. The map said the flag was by a big rock. But the park had lots of big rocks. His ears felt hot. The other runners were gone into the trees.

So he stopped. He took a deep breath. He did what the coach said. He turned the map until the needle pointed north. Now the creek on the map was on his left, just like the real creek. He found a stump, then a log, then a big rock with an orange flag.

Click went the punch.

Mateo found seven flags. He came in near the back. But he had learned how to read the land, and he wanted to do it again.

Questions

1. What three things did each runner get at the start?

_____

_____

2. How did a runner show that he or she had been to a flag?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mateo end up in the thorny bushes?

_____

_____

4. What did Mateo do after he stopped?

_____

_____

5. Why did the creek on the map match the real creek in the end?

_____

_____

6. Why was Mateo happy even though he came in near the back?

_____

_____

Words to know

compass: a tool with a needle that points north

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: _____

Mateo Gets Lost on Purpose

Triangle group

Mateo had never been lost on purpose before. At the orienteering meet, every runner got a map, a compass, and a card with a grid of small boxes. Hidden around the park were nine orange and white flags. Beside each flag hung a tiny punch, and the pattern it made on your card proved that you had been there.

"Walk it first, run it later," said Coach Imani. "Find north, turn the map to match, and then look for the next flag."

Mateo did not listen. He sprinted straight toward the first flag and ended up in a patch of brambles. The map said the flag stood near a boulder, but the park seemed to have a dozen boulders. His ears felt hot. The other runners were already vanishing into the trees.

So he stopped, took a long breath, and did what the coach had said. He turned the map until the red end of the needle pointed the same way as north on the paper. Suddenly the creek on the map sat on his left, just like the real creek. He picked out a stump, then a fallen log, and then a boulder with an orange flag on top.

Click went the punch.

Mateo found seven of the nine flags and finished near the back. But he had learned to read the land like a book, and he could hardly wait for the next meet.

Questions

1. What three things did each runner get at the start?

_____

_____

2. How did a runner prove that he or she had visited a flag?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mateo end up in the brambles?

_____

_____

4. What did Mateo do after he stopped and took a breath?

_____

_____

5. Why did the creek on the map finally match the real creek?

_____

_____

6. Why was Mateo happy even though he finished near the back?

_____

_____

Words to know

orienteering: a sport where you find your way with a map and compass
compass: a tool with a needle that points north
brambles: thorny bushes that grow in tangles
boulder: a very large rock
sprinted: ran as fast as possible

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: _____

Mateo Gets Lost on Purpose

Square group

Mateo had never been lost on purpose before, and the idea made him a little uneasy. At the orienteering meet, every runner received a map, a compass, and a card printed with a grid of small boxes. Nine orange and white flags had been hidden throughout the park. Beside each flag hung a tiny punch, and the pattern it pressed into your card was proof that you had actually reached that spot.

"Walk it first, run it later," said Coach Imani. "Find north, turn the map so that it matches, and only then start looking for the next flag."

Mateo ignored her advice. He sprinted straight toward the first flag and crashed into a patch of brambles. According to the map, the flag stood near a boulder, but the park seemed to contain a dozen of them. His ears burned with embarrassment, and the other runners had already vanished among the trees.

At last he stopped, took a long, slow breath, and did exactly what the coach had suggested. He rotated the map until the red end of the needle pointed the same direction as north on the paper. Suddenly the creek drawn on the map lay on his left, just as the real creek did. He picked out a stump, then a fallen log, and finally a boulder with an orange flag perched on top.

Click went the punch.

Mateo found seven of the nine flags and finished near the back of the pack. Even so, he had discovered how to read the land like a book, and he could hardly wait for the next meet.

Questions

1. What three things did each runner receive at the start?

_____

_____

2. How could a runner prove that he or she had reached a flag?

_____

_____

3. Why did Mateo crash into the brambles?

_____

_____

4. What did Mateo do after he finally stopped and breathed?

_____

_____

5. Why did the creek on the map finally match the real creek?

_____

_____

6. Why was Mateo pleased even though he finished near the back?

_____

_____

Words to know

orienteering: a sport where you find your way with a map and compass
compass: a tool with a needle that points north
brambles: thorny bushes that grow in tangles
boulder: a very large rock
sprinted: ran as fast as possible

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: Mateo Gets Lost on Purpose

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

Circle: Mateo Gets Lost on Purpose

Easier · 199 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. A map, a compass, and a card with boxes.
2. By using the punch to mark the card.
3. He ran for the first flag without finding north.
4. He took a breath and turned the map to match north.
5. The map was turned the same way as the land.
6. He had learned to read the land and wanted to try again.

Triangle: Mateo Gets Lost on Purpose

This passage · 236 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4

1. A map, a compass, and a card with small boxes.
2. By using the punch beside the flag to mark the card.
3. He sprinted toward the first flag without finding north first.
4. He turned the map until it matched north on the compass.
5. Turning the map made it face the same way as the land.
6. He had learned how to read the land and wanted to try again.

Square: Mateo Gets Lost on Purpose

Harder · 267 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. A map, a compass, and a card with a grid of small boxes.
2. By using the punch beside the flag to mark the card.
3. He sprinted toward the first flag without finding north first.
4. He rotated the map until it matched north on the compass.
5. Rotating the map made it face the same direction as the land.
6. He had learned how to read the land and wanted another try.