Name: _____ Date: _____

The Night Orion Lost His Belt

Circle group

Jun helped at the town planetarium on Friday nights. He liked to come early and see the dome before the crowd. That evening, he turned on the star projector. It was a big dark ball with thousands of tiny holes. Light came through the holes and made a night sky on the ceiling.

Something was wrong. In the winter sky, the hunter Orion had his shoulders and his knees, but no belt. The three bright stars of the belt were gone.

Ms. Ortega, the director, frowned. "Maybe the bulb is failing," she said. But Jun saw that all the other stars were bright. Only one small patch was dark. A weak bulb would not pick just one spot.

"A bulb would fade the whole sky," he said. "Something is blocking those holes."

He stood on a stool and shone a flashlight at the ball. A yellow square was stuck to its side, right where the belt stars came out. It was a note from the cleaning crew. It said, Please do not dust the ball.

Jun peeled it off with a careful finger. The three stars shone back on the dome at once.

"Orion lost his belt to a sticky note," Ms. Ortega said, and she laughed.

Questions

1. What was missing from the sky on the dome?

_____

_____

2. What did Ms. Ortega think was wrong?

_____

_____

3. What did Jun find stuck to the projector?

_____

_____

4. Why did Jun think it was not the bulb?

_____

_____

5. Why did the stars come back when Jun peeled off the note?

_____

_____

6. How did the projector make stars on the dome?

_____

_____

Words to know

planetarium: a building with a dome where the night sky is shown
projector: a machine that shines a picture onto a surface
director: the person who is in charge of a place

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 Night Orion Lost His Belt

Triangle group

Jun volunteered at the town planetarium on Friday nights, and he liked to arrive early to see the dome before the crowd came. That evening, he switched on the star projector, a big dark ball with thousands of tiny holes. Light poured through the holes and painted the night sky across the ceiling.

Something was wrong. In the winter part of the sky, the hunter Orion stood with his shoulders and his knees, but his belt was gone. The three bright stars that make the belt were missing.

Ms. Ortega, the director, frowned. "Perhaps the bulb is failing," she said. But Jun noticed that every other star was shining brightly. Only one small patch had gone dark, and a weak bulb would not pick just one spot.

"A bulb would fade the whole sky," he said. "Something is blocking those holes."

He stood on a stool and shone a flashlight at the ball. A yellow square was stuck to its side, right over the place where the belt stars came out. It was a note from the cleaning crew. It said, Please do not dust the ball.

Jun peeled it away with a careful fingertip. At once, the three stars blazed back onto the dome.

"Orion lost his belt to a sticky note," Ms. Ortega said with a laugh.

Questions

1. What was missing from the sky on the dome?

_____

_____

2. What did Ms. Ortega first guess was wrong?

_____

_____

3. What did Jun find stuck to the star projector?

_____

_____

4. Why did Jun decide the problem was not a failing bulb?

_____

_____

5. Why did the stars return when Jun peeled the note away?

_____

_____

6. Why does the story say the dome was painted with light?

_____

_____

Words to know

planetarium: a building with a dome where the night sky is shown
volunteered: worked to help without being paid
projector: a machine that shines a picture onto a surface
director: the person who is in charge of a place
blazed: burned or shone very brightly

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 Night Orion Lost His Belt

Square group

Jun volunteered at the town planetarium on Friday evenings, and he enjoyed arriving early to admire the dome before the audience trickled in. That night, he switched on the star projector, an enormous dark sphere pierced with thousands of tiny holes. Light streamed through the holes and painted a glittering night sky across the ceiling.

Something was clearly wrong. In the winter portion of the sky, the great hunter Orion stood with his shoulders and his knees in place, but his belt had vanished. The three bright stars that form the belt were nowhere to be seen.

Ms. Ortega, the director, frowned. "Perhaps the bulb is failing," she suggested. Jun, however, noticed that every other star was still shining brightly. Only one small patch had gone dark, and a weakening bulb would hardly single out one spot.

"A bulb would dim the entire sky," he said. "Something is blocking those particular holes."

He climbed onto a stool and aimed a flashlight at the sphere. A yellow square clung to its side, directly over the place where the belt stars shone through. It was a note from the cleaning crew, and it read, Please do not dust the ball.

Jun peeled it away with a careful fingertip. Instantly, the three stars blazed back onto the dome.

"Orion lost his belt to a sticky note," Ms. Ortega said with a hearty laugh.

Questions

1. What had vanished from the sky on the dome?

_____

_____

2. What did Ms. Ortega first suggest was the problem?

_____

_____

3. What was clinging to the side of the projector?

_____

_____

4. Why did Jun doubt that a failing bulb was the cause?

_____

_____

5. Why did the belt stars reappear once the note was removed?

_____

_____

6. How did the star projector create the sky on the ceiling?

_____

_____

Words to know

planetarium: a building with a dome where the night sky is shown
volunteered: worked to help without being paid
projector: a machine that shines a picture onto a surface
director: the person who is in charge of a place
blazed: burned or shone very brightly

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 Night Orion Lost His Belt

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

Circle: The Night Orion Lost His Belt

Easier · 207 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. The three bright stars of Orion's belt.
2. She thought the bulb was failing.
3. A yellow note from the cleaning crew.
4. All the other stars were bright, and only one small patch was dark.
5. The note had been covering the holes that let the belt stars shine.
6. Light came through tiny holes in the ball and made stars on the ceiling.

Triangle: The Night Orion Lost His Belt

This passage · 219 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.1

1. The three bright stars that make up Orion's belt.
2. That the bulb was failing.
3. A yellow note from the cleaning crew.
4. The rest of the stars were bright, and only one small patch was dark.
5. The note had been covering the holes that let the belt stars shine through.
6. Light from the projector shone through tiny holes and made the stars appear on the ceiling.

Square: The Night Orion Lost His Belt

Harder · 230 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.9

1. The three bright stars that form Orion's belt.
2. That the bulb was failing.
3. A yellow note from the cleaning crew.
4. Every other star still shone brightly, and only one small patch was dark.
5. The note had been blocking the holes that let their light through.
6. Light streamed through thousands of tiny holes in the dark sphere.