Name: _____ Date: _____

Pancakes Pay for the Fire Hose

Circle group

In some small towns, the firefighters are neighbors who work for free. These are volunteer fire companies. A volunteer might be a teacher or a plumber by day. When the alarm sounds, the volunteer leaves and rushes to help.

Volunteers still need a lot of gear. A fire company needs trucks, hoses, ladders, helmets and special coats. These cost money. Some towns cannot pay for everything. So many fire companies hold fundraisers.

One popular fundraiser is a pancake breakfast. On a Saturday morning, the firefighters set up tables in the fire station. Some volunteers flip pancakes on big griddles. Others pour juice, take tickets and wash dishes. Families come in, eat together and meet people they have not seen in a while. The money from the tickets goes toward new gear or training.

Volunteers also spend many hours learning. They practice with the gear and learn first aid. Then they know what to do when someone needs help.

A pancake breakfast works because both sides gain. The town has a friendly morning. The firefighters get what they need to help in return. It is one way a community takes care of itself.

Questions

1. What is a volunteer fire company?

_____

_____

2. What are three things a fire company needs?

_____

_____

3. What jobs do volunteers do at a pancake breakfast?

_____

_____

4. Where does the money from the tickets go?

_____

_____

5. Why do fire companies hold fundraisers?

_____

_____

6. How do both sides gain from a pancake breakfast?

_____

_____

Words to know

volunteer: a person who does a job without being paid
fundraisers: events that are held to raise money
griddles: flat metal pans used for cooking pancakes
training: practice that teaches a skill

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: _____

Pancakes Pay for the Fire Hose

Triangle group

In some small towns, the firefighters are neighbors who do the job for free. These are volunteer fire companies. A volunteer might work as a teacher or a plumber during the day. When the alarm sounds, the volunteer leaves and rushes to help.

Volunteers still need a lot of equipment. A fire company must have trucks, hoses, ladders, helmets and special coats. These things cost money, and some towns cannot pay for everything. So many fire companies hold fundraisers.

One popular fundraiser is a pancake breakfast. On a Saturday morning, the firefighters set up tables in the fire station. Some volunteers flip pancakes on big griddles. Others pour juice, collect tickets and wash dishes. Families walk in, eat together and often meet people they have not seen for a while. The money from the tickets goes toward new equipment or training.

Volunteers also spend many hours learning. They practice using the equipment and learn first aid, so they know what to do when someone needs help.

A pancake breakfast works because both sides gain. The town enjoys a friendly morning, and the firefighters get what they need to help in return. It is one way a community takes care of itself.

Questions

1. What is a volunteer fire company?

_____

_____

2. What are three things a fire company needs?

_____

_____

3. What jobs do volunteers do at a pancake breakfast?

_____

_____

4. Where does the money from the tickets go?

_____

_____

5. Why do fire companies hold fundraisers?

_____

_____

6. How do both sides gain from a pancake breakfast?

_____

_____

Words to know

volunteer: a person who does a job without being paid
equipment: the tools and gear needed to do a job
fundraisers: events that are held to raise money
griddles: flat metal pans used for cooking pancakes
training: practice that teaches a skill

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: _____

Pancakes Pay for the Fire Hose

Square group

In some small towns, the firefighters are ordinary neighbors who perform the job without pay. These groups are known as volunteer fire companies. A volunteer might work as a teacher or a plumber during the day, but when the alarm sounds, he or she drops everything and rushes to help.

Even so, volunteers require a great deal of equipment. A fire company must have trucks, hoses, ladders, helmets and special protective coats. These items are expensive, and some towns cannot afford to pay for all of them. As a result, many fire companies organize fundraisers.

One popular fundraiser is the pancake breakfast. On a Saturday morning, the firefighters arrange tables inside the fire station. Some volunteers flip pancakes on enormous griddles, while others pour juice, collect tickets and wash dishes. Families wander in, eat together and often meet people they have not seen for a while. The money from the tickets is put toward new equipment or training.

Volunteers also devote many hours to learning. They practice using the equipment and study first aid, so that they know what to do when someone needs help.

A pancake breakfast succeeds because both sides benefit. The town enjoys a friendly morning, and the firefighters obtain what they need in order to help in return. It is one way in which a community takes care of itself.

Questions

1. What is a volunteer fire company?

_____

_____

2. What are three items that a fire company must have?

_____

_____

3. What tasks do volunteers perform at a pancake breakfast?

_____

_____

4. What is done with the money from the tickets?

_____

_____

5. Why do many fire companies organize fundraisers?

_____

_____

6. In what way do both the town and the firefighters benefit from a pancake breakfast?

_____

_____

Words to know

volunteer: a person who does a job without being paid
equipment: the tools and gear needed to do a job
fundraisers: events that are held to raise money
griddles: flat metal pans used for cooking pancakes
training: practice that teaches a skill

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: Pancakes Pay for the Fire Hose

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

Circle: Pancakes Pay for the Fire Hose

Easier · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. A group of firefighters who are neighbors working for free.
2. Any three of: trucks, hoses, ladders, helmets, special coats.
3. Flip pancakes, pour juice, take tickets and wash dishes.
4. Toward new gear or training.
5. Some towns cannot pay for all the gear they need.
6. The town has a friendly morning, and the firefighters get money for gear.

Triangle: Pancakes Pay for the Fire Hose

This passage · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. A group of firefighters who are neighbors doing the job for free.
2. Any three of: trucks, hoses, ladders, helmets, special coats.
3. Flip pancakes, pour juice, collect tickets and wash dishes.
4. Toward new equipment or training.
5. Some towns cannot pay for all the equipment they need.
6. The town has a friendly morning, and the firefighters get money for equipment.

Square: Pancakes Pay for the Fire Hose

Harder · 224 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. A group of firefighters who are ordinary neighbors doing the job without pay.
2. Any three of: trucks, hoses, ladders, helmets, protective coats.
3. Flip pancakes, pour juice, collect tickets and wash dishes.
4. It is put toward new equipment or training.
5. Some towns cannot afford all the equipment that is needed.
6. The town enjoys a friendly morning, and the firefighters get money for equipment.