Name: _____ Date: _____

Islands Made of Reeds on Lake Titicaca

Circle group

High in the Andes Mountains lies Lake Titicaca. It is between Peru and Bolivia. On the Peruvian side, a people called the Uros live on islands. They build the islands out of plants.

The plant is a tall reed called totora. It grows in shallow water by the shore. The people cut the reeds and pile them in thick layers. The reeds are full of tiny air pockets, so they float. The bottom layers rot in the water. New reeds must be added all the time to keep the island firm.

Reeds make more than the ground. Houses are made of reeds. Boats are made of reeds, too. The stems can be eaten.

An island can be moved. Ropes and anchors hold it in place. It can be cut apart and pulled to a new spot. The Uros use what their land gives them.

Questions

1. Where is Lake Titicaca?

_____

_____

2. What plant do the Uros use to build islands?

_____

_____

3. Why do the reeds float?

_____

_____

4. Why must new reeds be added all the time?

_____

_____

5. Can you name two things made from totora besides the ground?

_____

_____

6. What does the passage show about how the Uros live?

_____

_____

Words to know

reed: a tall grass-like plant that grows in water
shallow: not deep
layer: one flat level lying on top of another
anchor: a heavy weight that holds something in 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: _____

Islands Made of Reeds on Lake Titicaca

Triangle group

High in the Andes Mountains, between Peru and Bolivia, lies Lake Titicaca. It is one of the highest large lakes in the world that boats can use. On its Peruvian side, a group of people called the Uros live on islands that they build themselves out of plants.

The plant is a tall reed called totora. It grows in shallow water along the shore. The people cut the reeds and pile them in thick layers, with new ones laid on top of the old. Because the reeds are full of tiny air pockets, they float. The bottom layers slowly rot in the water, so fresh reeds must be added all the time to keep the island firm.

Reeds are used for much more than the ground. Houses are built from them, and so are the boats, some shaped like big curved baskets. The stems can even be eaten. Many visitors learn about the lake and the Uros way of life on guided tours.

An island of totora can be moved if needed. Long ropes and anchors hold it in place, and it can be cut apart and pulled to a new spot. The Uros show how people can shape a home from whatever their land gives them.

Questions

1. Where is Lake Titicaca?

_____

_____

2. What plant do the Uros use to build their islands?

_____

_____

3. Why do the reeds float?

_____

_____

4. Why must new reeds be added all the time?

_____

_____

5. Can you name two things besides the ground that are made from totora?

_____

_____

6. What does the passage suggest about how the Uros live?

_____

_____

Words to know

reed: a tall grass-like plant that grows in water
shallow: not deep
layer: one flat level lying on top of another
anchor: a heavy weight that holds something in place
guided: led by someone who knows the way and the facts

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: _____

Islands Made of Reeds on Lake Titicaca

Square group

High in the Andes Mountains, between Peru and Bolivia, lies Lake Titicaca, one of the highest large lakes in the world that ships and boats can navigate. On its Peruvian side, a group of people known as the Uros live on islands that they construct themselves out of plants.

The plant in question is a tall reed called totora, which grows in the shallow water along the shore. The people cut the reeds and stack them in thick layers, laying fresh ones on top of the old. Because the reeds are filled with countless tiny air pockets, they float easily. The bottom layers gradually rot in the water, so new reeds must be added constantly to keep the island firm underfoot.

Reeds are used for far more than the ground itself. Houses are built from them, and so are the boats, some of them shaped like enormous curved baskets. The stems can even be eaten. Many visitors learn about the lake and the Uros way of life on guided tours.

An island of totora can be relocated when necessary. Long ropes and anchors hold it in place, and it can be cut apart and pulled to a different spot. The Uros demonstrate how people can shape a home from whatever their land provides.

Questions

1. Where is Lake Titicaca located?

_____

_____

2. Which plant do the Uros use to construct their islands?

_____

_____

3. Why do the reeds float so easily?

_____

_____

4. Why must fresh reeds be added constantly?

_____

_____

5. Can you name two things besides the ground that are made from totora?

_____

_____

6. What does the passage suggest about the way the Uros live?

_____

_____

Words to know

reed: a tall grass-like plant that grows in water
shallow: not deep
layer: one flat level lying on top of another
anchor: a heavy weight that holds something in place
guided: led by someone who knows the way and the facts

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: Islands Made of Reeds on Lake Titicaca

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

Circle: Islands Made of Reeds on Lake Titicaca

Easier · 144 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. High in the Andes, between Peru and Bolivia.
2. A tall reed called totora.
3. They are full of tiny air pockets.
4. The bottom layers rot, so new reeds keep the island firm.
5. Houses and boats.
6. They use what their land gives them.

Triangle: Islands Made of Reeds on Lake Titicaca

This passage · 207 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. High in the Andes Mountains, between Peru and Bolivia.
2. A tall reed called totora.
3. They are full of tiny air pockets.
4. The bottom layers rot in the water, so new reeds keep the island firm.
5. Houses and boats.
6. They use what their land gives them to make homes and tools.

Square: Islands Made of Reeds on Lake Titicaca

Harder · 213 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. High in the Andes Mountains, between Peru and Bolivia.
2. A tall reed called totora.
3. They are filled with countless tiny air pockets.
4. The bottom layers rot in the water, so new reeds keep the island firm.
5. Houses and boats.
6. They shape homes and tools from whatever their land provides.