Name: _____ Date: _____

School by Radio in the Australian Outback

Circle group

In the Australian Outback, some families live on very big farms called stations. The nearest town may be far away. A child cannot walk to school.

A program called the School of the Air helped. It began in the middle of the last century. Children sat at home by a two-way radio. The teacher sat in a studio in a faraway town. The teacher spoke, and the children heard the lesson over the empty land.

Children mailed their work to the teacher. The teacher mailed back corrections. A parent or tutor helped at home.

Now the lessons come by internet and video. Students can see their teacher and classmates on a screen. They still meet in person on special days. They play games and make friends. The School of the Air uses new tools to bring school to faraway homes.

Questions

1. What are the big farms in the Outback called?

_____

_____

2. How did the first lessons reach the children?

_____

_____

3. How did children get their work corrected?

_____

_____

4. Why could a child not walk to school?

_____

_____

5. How do the lessons come now?

_____

_____

6. Why do students meet in person on special days?

_____

_____

Words to know

Outback: the huge, dry, thinly settled inland part of Australia
station: a very large farm in Australia
studio: a room set up for broadcasting or recording
program: a planned set of lessons or activities
tutor: a person who helps someone learn

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: _____

School by Radio in the Australian Outback

Triangle group

In the Australian Outback, some families live on huge farms called stations. The nearest town may be a long drive away, and the nearest neighbor may be even farther. A child on one of these stations cannot simply walk to a school down the road.

For many years, a special program called the School of the Air solved this problem. It began in the middle of the twentieth century. Children sat at home near a two-way radio. Their teacher sat in a studio in a faraway town. The teacher spoke into a microphone, and every child in the "classroom" could hear the lesson across the empty land.

Children also mailed their finished work to the teacher and received corrections in return. Parents or tutors helped at home during the day. Today the lessons usually come by internet and video, so students can see their teacher and their classmates on a screen.

Even so, the program has not lost its purpose. Students still meet in person on special days, when they can play games and make friends face to face. The School of the Air shows how people can use new tools to bring learning to a place where schools are hard to build.

Questions

1. What are the large farms in the Outback called?

_____

_____

2. How did the first School of the Air lessons reach children?

_____

_____

3. How did students get their work corrected in the early days?

_____

_____

4. Why could a child in the Outback not just walk to school?

_____

_____

5. How have the lessons changed in recent times?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think students still meet in person on special days?

_____

_____

Words to know

Outback: the huge, dry, thinly settled inland part of Australia
station: a very large farm in Australia
studio: a room set up for broadcasting or recording
program: a planned set of lessons or activities
tutor: a person who helps someone learn

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: _____

School by Radio in the Australian Outback

Square group

In the Australian Outback, some families live on enormous farms known as stations. The closest town may be a long drive away, and the nearest neighbor may be even farther, so a child on one of these stations cannot simply walk to a school down the road.

For many years, a special program called the School of the Air solved this problem. It began in the middle of the twentieth century. Children sat at home beside a two-way radio, while their teacher sat in a studio in a distant town. The teacher spoke into a microphone, and every child in the scattered "classroom" could hear the lesson travel across the empty land.

Children also mailed their completed work to the teacher and received corrections in return, and parents or tutors supported them at home during the day. Today the lessons usually arrive by internet and video, which allows students to see their teacher and their classmates on a screen.

Even so, the program has kept its original purpose. Students still gather in person on special occasions, when they can play games and build friendships face to face. The School of the Air demonstrates how people can adopt new tools to bring learning to places where schools are difficult to build.

Questions

1. What are the enormous farms of the Outback called?

_____

_____

2. How did the first School of the Air lessons reach children?

_____

_____

3. How did students receive corrections in the early days?

_____

_____

4. Why could a child on a station not simply walk to school?

_____

_____

5. In what way have the lessons changed in recent times?

_____

_____

6. Why do you think students still gather in person on special occasions?

_____

_____

Words to know

Outback: the huge, dry, thinly settled inland part of Australia
station: a very large farm in Australia
studio: a room set up for broadcasting or recording
program: a planned set of lessons or activities
tutor: a person who helps someone learn

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: School by Radio in the Australian Outback

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

Circle: School by Radio in the Australian Outback

Easier · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. They are called stations.
2. By two-way radio from a studio in a faraway town.
3. They mailed it to the teacher and got corrections back.
4. The nearest town is very far away.
5. By internet and video.
6. To play games and make friends face to face.

Triangle: School by Radio in the Australian Outback

This passage · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.4

1. They are called stations.
2. By two-way radio from a studio in a faraway town.
3. They mailed it to the teacher and got corrections back.
4. The nearest town and neighbors are very far away.
5. They now usually come by internet and video.
6. So they can make friends and play together face to face, which a screen cannot fully do.

Square: School by Radio in the Australian Outback

Harder · 211 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.3

1. They are called stations.
2. By two-way radio from a studio in a distant town.
3. They mailed their work to the teacher and got corrections back.
4. The nearest town and neighbors are very far away.
5. They usually arrive by internet and video.
6. To play and build friendships face to face, which a screen cannot fully offer.