Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ibex and the Crumbling Ledge

Circle group

High on a steep mountain lived a young ibex named Dario. He was the best climber in his herd, and he knew it. He leaped from rock to rock without ever looking down.

One autumn day, the herd's leader, an old female named Sela, stopped at the edge of a narrow ledge. "This path is new to me," she said. "The rains have been heavy. Let us test it before we all cross."

Dario snorted. "I can cross it in a blink. I do not need to test anything."

"Wait," said Sela. "A strong climber still needs good ground."

Dario did not wait. He trotted onto the ledge, and with a soft crack, a slab of rock slid out from beneath his back hooves. He scrambled and clung to the wall, trembling. Below him there was nothing but air.

"Hold still," called Sela. She and two others came along the safer edge of the ledge and pressed their shoulders against his, helping him step back to solid rock.

Dario was quiet for a long time. Then he said, "I thought asking for advice was for weak climbers."

"The best climbers ask the most questions," said Sela. "That is how they grow old."

Questions

1. What was Dario known for in the herd?

_____

_____

2. Why did Sela want to test the ledge?

_____

_____

3. What happened when Dario stepped onto the ledge?

_____

_____

4. How did the other ibex help him?

_____

_____

5. Why did Dario ignore Sela's warning?

_____

_____

6. What does Sela mean when she says that is how climbers grow old?

_____

_____

Words to know

ibex: a wild mountain goat with long curved horns
ledge: a narrow shelf of rock sticking out from a cliff
slab: a flat, thick piece of something
scrambled: moved quickly and awkwardly using hands or feet
herd: a group of animals that live together

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 Ibex and the Crumbling Ledge

Triangle group

High on a precipitous mountain lived a young ibex named Dario. He was the most skilled climber in his entire herd, and he was thoroughly aware of it. He leaped from rock to rock without ever bothering to look down.

One crisp autumn day, the herd's leader, an old female named Sela, halted at the edge of a narrow ledge. "I have never walked this path before," she said. "The rains have been unusually heavy this season. Let us test the ledge before we all cross it."

Dario snorted impatiently. "I could cross it in a blink. I do not need to test anything."

"Wait," said Sela. "Even the strongest climber still depends on solid ground."

Dario did not wait. He trotted confidently onto the ledge, and with a soft crack, an entire slab of rock gave way beneath his back hooves. He scrambled desperately and clung to the wall, trembling all over. Below him there was nothing but empty air.

"Hold perfectly still," called Sela. She and two other ibex edged along the safer side of the ledge and pressed their shoulders firmly against his, guiding him carefully back onto solid rock.

Dario was silent for a long time. At last he said, "I believed that asking for advice was something only weak climbers did."

"The best climbers ask the most questions," replied Sela. "That is precisely how they grow old."

Questions

1. What was Dario well known for among his herd?

_____

_____

2. Why did Sela insist on testing the ledge?

_____

_____

3. What happened when Dario trotted onto the ledge?

_____

_____

4. How did the other ibex rescue him?

_____

_____

5. Why did Dario ignore Sela's warning?

_____

_____

6. What does Sela mean when she says that is how the best climbers grow old?

_____

_____

Words to know

ibex: a wild mountain goat with long curved horns
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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 Ibex and the Crumbling Ledge

Square group

High on a precipitous mountain lived a young ibex named Dario, who was the most skilled climber in his entire herd and who was thoroughly aware of it. He leaped from rock to rock without ever bothering to look down.

One crisp autumn day, the herd's leader, an old female named Sela, halted at the edge of a narrow ledge. "I have never walked this path before, and the rains have been unusually heavy this season," she said. "Let us test the ledge before we all cross it."

Dario snorted impatiently. "I could cross it in a blink. I do not need to test anything."

"Wait," said Sela. "Even the strongest climber still depends on solid ground."

Dario did not wait. He trotted confidently onto the ledge, and with a soft crack, an entire slab of rock gave way beneath his back hooves. He scrambled desperately and clung to the wall, trembling all over, while below him there was nothing but empty air.

"Hold perfectly still," called Sela. She and two other ibex edged along the safer side of the ledge and pressed their shoulders firmly against his, guiding him carefully back onto solid rock.

Dario was silent for a long time. At last he said, "I believed that asking for advice was something only weak climbers did."

"The best climbers ask the most questions," replied Sela. "That is precisely how they grow old."

Questions

1. What was Dario well known for among his herd?

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2. Why did Sela insist on testing the ledge?

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_____

3. What happened when Dario trotted onto the ledge?

_____

_____

4. How did the other ibex rescue him?

_____

_____

5. Why did Dario ignore Sela's warning?

_____

_____

6. What does Sela mean when she says that is how the best climbers grow old?

_____

_____

Words to know

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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 Ibex and the Crumbling Ledge

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

Circle: The Ibex and the Crumbling Ledge

Easier · 202 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. He was the best climber.
2. The rains had been heavy and the path was new to her.
3. A slab of rock slid out from under his back hooves.
4. They pressed their shoulders against his and helped him step back to solid rock.
5. He was too proud of his skill to think he needed advice.
6. Climbers who ask questions and take care stay safe and live long.

Triangle: The Ibex and the Crumbling Ledge

This passage · 232 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. He was the most skilled climber.
2. She had never walked the path and the rains had been unusually heavy.
3. An entire slab of rock gave way beneath his back hooves.
4. They pressed their shoulders against his and guided him back onto solid rock.
5. He was so proud of his climbing skill that he did not think he needed advice.
6. Climbers who ask questions and take care avoid danger and live a long time.

Square: The Ibex and the Crumbling Ledge

Harder · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. He was the most skilled climber.
2. She had never walked the path and the rains had been unusually heavy.
3. An entire slab of rock gave way beneath his back hooves.
4. They pressed their shoulders against his and guided him back onto solid rock.
5. He was so proud of his climbing skill that he did not think he needed advice.
6. Climbers who ask questions and take care avoid danger and live a long time.