Name: _____ Date: _____

The Volcano That Would Not Erupt

Circle group

Priya had waited for the science fair for weeks. Her project was a model volcano made of clay. She had painted it brown and gray, and it had a deep crater at the top. She had tried the eruption at home three times. Each time, red foam bubbled over the sides like real lava.

On the morning of the fair, Priya carried the volcano into the gym. She set it on her table. Parents and students walked between the displays. The judge came. Priya poured vinegar into the crater, just as she had at home. She waited. Nothing happened. Not one bubble came up.

Her cheeks got hot. "It always works," she whispered. The judge smiled. "Take your time," she said. "Scientists have problems like this every day."

Priya took a deep breath. She thought about the steps. Baking soda and vinegar make the foam. She looked into the crater and saw the answer. That morning she had been in a hurry. She had forgotten the baking soda!

She put some in the crater. She poured in the vinegar again. This time, red foam bubbled up and ran down the sides. The judge clapped. "You checked your steps and found your mistake," she said. "That is what good scientists do." Priya grinned. She wrote the lesson on her card.

Questions

1. What was Priya's science fair project?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Priya poured the vinegar in the first time?

_____

_____

3. What had Priya forgotten to do?

_____

_____

4. Why did Priya's cheeks get hot?

_____

5. What did the judge mean by saying that is what good scientists do?

Words to know

crater: the bowl-shaped hole at the top of a volcano
eruption: a burst of lava, gas, or foam from a volcano
display: something put out for people to look at
judge: a person who decides how good something is
mistake: something done wrong by accident

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 Volcano That Would Not Erupt

Triangle group

Priya had been looking forward to the science fair for several weeks. Her project was a model volcano made of clay, which she had painted brown and gray and given a deep crater at the top. She had practiced the eruption at home three times, and every time the red foam had bubbled over the sides exactly like real lava.

On the morning of the fair, Priya carried the volcano into the gymnasium and set it on her table. A crowd of parents and students wandered between the displays. When the judge arrived, Priya poured vinegar into the crater, just as she had done at home, and then she waited. Nothing happened. Not a single bubble appeared.

Her cheeks grew hot. "It always works," she whispered. The judge smiled kindly and said, "Take your time. Scientists have problems like this every day."

Priya took a deep breath and thought about the steps. Baking soda and vinegar make the foam. She peeked inside the crater and saw the answer at once. In her hurry that morning, she had forgotten to put in the baking soda.

She spooned some into the crater and poured in the vinegar again. This time, red foam bubbled up and ran down the slopes of the volcano. The judge clapped and said, "You checked your steps and found the mistake, and that is what good scientists do." Priya grinned, and she wrote the lesson on her display card.

Questions

1. What was Priya's science fair project?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Priya poured the vinegar into the crater the first time?

_____

_____

3. What had Priya forgotten to do?

_____

_____

4. Why did Priya's cheeks grow hot?

_____

_____

5. What did the judge mean by saying that is what good scientists do?

_____

_____

Words to know

crater: the bowl-shaped hole at the top of a volcano
eruption: a burst of lava, gas, or foam from a volcano
display: something put out for people to look at
judge: a person who decides how good something is
mistake: something done wrong by accident

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 Volcano That Would Not Erupt

Square group

Priya had been eagerly anticipating the science fair for weeks. Her project was a model volcano sculpted from clay, painted brown and gray, with a deep crater at its summit. She had rehearsed the eruption at home three times, and on each occasion red foam had bubbled over the sides exactly like real lava.

On the morning of the fair, Priya carried the volcano into the gymnasium and positioned it on her table. A crowd of parents and students wandered among the displays. When the judge arrived, Priya poured vinegar into the crater, just as she had done at home. She waited, but nothing happened. Not a single bubble appeared.

Her cheeks burned with embarrassment. "It always works," she whispered. The judge smiled warmly and replied, "Take your time. Scientists encounter problems like this every day."

Priya drew a deep breath and methodically reviewed the procedure in her mind. Baking soda and vinegar combine to make the foam. She peered into the crater and immediately discovered the explanation: in her hurry that morning, she had neglected to put in the baking soda.

She spooned some into the crater and poured in the vinegar once more. This time, red foam surged upward and streamed down the slopes. The judge applauded. "You examined your steps and located the mistake," she said. "That is precisely what good scientists do." Priya beamed, and she wrote the lesson on her display card.

Questions

1. What was Priya's science fair project?

_____

_____

2. What happened when Priya poured the vinegar into the crater the first time?

_____

_____

3. What had Priya neglected to do?

_____

_____

4. Why did Priya's cheeks burn?

_____

_____

5. What did the judge mean by saying that is precisely what good scientists do?

_____

_____

Words to know

crater: the bowl-shaped hole at the top of a volcano
eruption: a burst of lava, gas, or foam from a volcano
display: something put out for people to look at
judge: a person who decides how good something is
mistake: something done wrong by accident

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 Volcano That Would Not Erupt

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

Circle: The Volcano That Would Not Erupt

Easier · 219 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. A model volcano made of clay.
2. Nothing happened. No bubbles came up.
3. She forgot the baking soda.
4. She felt embarrassed and worried because her volcano did not work.
5. Good scientists check their steps and find mistakes instead of giving up.

Triangle: The Volcano That Would Not Erupt

This passage · 241 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. A model volcano made of clay.
2. Nothing happened. No bubbles appeared.
3. She forgot to put baking soda in the crater.
4. She felt embarrassed and worried because her volcano did not work.
5. Good scientists check their steps and find mistakes instead of giving up.

Square: The Volcano That Would Not Erupt

Harder · 237 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. A model volcano sculpted from clay.
2. Nothing happened. Not a single bubble appeared.
3. She neglected to put baking soda in the crater.
4. She felt embarrassed and worried because her volcano did not work.
5. Good scientists examine their steps and find mistakes instead of giving up.