Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Warship Vasa Comes Back Up

Circle group

In 1628, a new warship named Vasa was launched in Stockholm, Sweden. Crowds came to watch. The ship had carved wooden figures and bright paint. But Vasa sailed only a short way. A gust of wind tipped it over, and it sank in the harbor.

What went wrong? Experts have studied the ship. It was too narrow and too heavy near the top. It had many cannons and tall decks. But it did not have enough weight low down to keep it steady. Back then, builders could not test such a ship before launching it.

Vasa lay on the harbor floor for more than three hundred years. The cold Baltic Sea has little salt. The wood-eating worms that ruin ships in saltier seas do not do well there. So the wood stayed in good shape.

In 1961, divers and workers lifted the ship with great care. Specialists treated the old wood so it would not crack as it dried. Today Vasa sits in a museum in Stockholm. Visitors can see a ship from nearly four hundred years ago.

## Questions

**1. Where was the Vasa launched in 1628?**

_____

_____

**2. What happened soon after the ship set sail?**

_____

_____

**3. Why did Vasa tip over so easily?**

_____

_____

**4. When was the ship lifted from the water?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the wood stay in good shape?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did specialists treat the wood?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

launched: sent a new ship out onto the water
harbor: a sheltered place where ships can stay safely
cannons: large guns that fire heavy balls
specialists: people with expert training in one subject
museum: a place that keeps and shows important objects

## 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 Warship Vasa Comes Back Up

Triangle group

In 1628, a grand new warship named Vasa was launched in Stockholm, Sweden. Crowds came to watch. The ship was covered in carved wooden figures and painted in bright colors. But Vasa sailed only a short way before a gust of wind tipped it over, and it sank in the harbor.

What went wrong? Experts have studied the ship and found that it was too narrow and too heavy near the top. It carried many cannons and tall decks, but it did not have enough weight low down to keep it steady. In those days, builders had no way to test such a ship before launching it.

Vasa then lay on the harbor floor for more than three hundred years. The cold Baltic Sea water has little salt, and the wood-eating worms that destroy ships in saltier seas do not do well there. Because of that, the wood stayed in good shape.

In 1961, divers and workers lifted the ship from the water with great care. Specialists treated the old wood so it would not crack as it dried. Today Vasa sits in a museum in Stockholm, where visitors can see a ship from nearly four hundred years ago.

## Questions

**1. Where was the Vasa launched in 1628?**

_____

_____

**2. What happened to the ship soon after it set sail?**

_____

_____

**3. Why did Vasa tip over so easily?**

_____

_____

**4. When was the ship lifted from the water?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the wood stay in good shape for so long?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did specialists treat the wood after the ship was raised?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

launched: sent a new ship out onto the water
harbor: a sheltered place where ships can stay safely
cannons: large guns that fire heavy balls
specialists: people with expert training in one subject
museum: a place that keeps and shows important objects

## 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 Warship Vasa Comes Back Up

Square group

In 1628, a magnificent new warship named Vasa was launched in Stockholm, Sweden, while crowds gathered to watch. The vessel was decorated with carved wooden figures and painted in bright colors. Yet Vasa sailed only a short distance before a gust of wind tipped it over, and it sank in the harbor.

What had gone wrong? Experts who have studied the ship have discovered that it was too narrow and too heavy near the top. It carried numerous cannons and tall decks, but it lacked sufficient weight low down to keep it steady. In those days, builders had no way of testing such a ship before it was launched.

Vasa then rested on the harbor floor for more than three hundred years. The cold waters of the Baltic Sea contain little salt, and the wood-eating worms that devour ships in saltier seas do not thrive there. As a result, the wood remained in remarkably good condition.

In 1961, divers and workers raised the ship from the water with enormous care, and specialists treated the old wood so that it would not crack as it dried. Today Vasa sits inside a museum in Stockholm, where visitors can admire a ship built nearly four hundred years ago.

## Questions

**1. Where was the warship Vasa launched in 1628?**

_____

_____

**2. What happened to the ship soon after it began to sail?**

_____

_____

**3. Why did the Vasa tip over so easily?**

_____

_____

**4. In what year was the ship raised from the water?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the wood remain in such good condition?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did specialists treat the wood after the ship was raised?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

launched: sent a new ship out onto the water
harbor: a sheltered place where ships can stay safely
cannons: large guns that fire heavy balls
specialists: people with expert training in one subject
museum: a place that keeps and shows important objects

## 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 Warship Vasa Comes Back Up

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

### Circle: The Warship Vasa Comes Back Up

Easier · 177 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. In Stockholm, Sweden.
2. A gust of wind tipped it over and it sank.
3. It was too narrow and too heavy near the top, with too little weight low down.
4. In 1961.
5. The Baltic water has little salt, so wood-eating worms did not do well.
6. So it would not crack as it dried.

### Triangle: The Warship Vasa Comes Back Up

This passage · 198 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. In Stockholm, Sweden.
2. A gust of wind tipped it over and it sank in the harbor.
3. It was too narrow and too heavy near the top, with too little weight low down.
4. In 1961.
5. The Baltic water has little salt, so the wood-eating worms did not thrive.
6. So it would not crack as it dried.

### Square: The Warship Vasa Comes Back Up

Harder · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.2

1. In Stockholm, Sweden.
2. A gust of wind tipped it over and it sank in the harbor.
3. It was too narrow and too heavy near the top, and lacked sufficient weight low down.
4. In 1961.
5. The Baltic waters contain little salt, so wood-eating worms did not thrive there.
6. So that it would not crack as it dried.