Name: _____ Date: _____

Ezra's Hiccup Moved the Barn

Circle group

Out in the flat country, people tell of a farm boy named Ezra Cobb. He once had the biggest hiccups in history. It began after breakfast on a Tuesday. At first Ezra hiccupped quietly, like any boy. By noon each hiccup had the power of a small earthquake.

With the first big hiccup, the pig pen shifted three feet to the left. With the second, the chicken coop hopped over the fence. By supper the red barn had scooted a whole yard across the pasture. The cows stood in a line. They wondered where their house had gone.

Ezra's grandmother tried the usual cures. She asked him to hold his breath. The next hiccup knocked the clock off the wall. She asked him to stand on his head. He hiccupped so hard he landed in the hay.

At last his little sister Pearl brought a cup of cold water and a slow idea. "Count backward from twenty," she said. "Take a sip between each number."

Ezra tried it. Seventeen, sip. Twelve, sip. When he got to three, his hiccups had faded to one small squeak.

The barn never moved back. It sat beside the pond. It had a better view and shade from the willow tree. Ezra's grandmother said it was the best spot on the farm. She thanked the hiccup for finding it.

Questions

1. What happened to the pig pen with the first big hiccup?

_____

_____

2. What cures did Ezra's grandmother try?

_____

_____

3. What cure finally worked?

_____

_____

4. Where did the barn end up?

_____

_____

5. Why did the cows stand in a line looking puzzled?

_____

_____

6. Why was Pearl's cure different from the grandmother's?

_____

_____

Words to know

hiccup: a quick, jerky sound made by the chest and throat
earthquake: a shaking of the ground
pasture: a field where animals eat grass
cures: ways to make a problem go away

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: _____

Ezra's Hiccup Moved the Barn

Triangle group

Out in the flat country, folks tell of a farm boy named Ezra Cobb who once got the biggest case of hiccups in history. It began after breakfast on a Tuesday, and at first Ezra hiccupped quietly, like any other boy. By noon, however, each hiccup had the power of a small earthquake.

With the first big hiccup, the pig pen shifted three feet to the left. With the second, the chicken coop hopped over the fence, and by supper, the red barn had scooted a full yard across the pasture, while the cows stood in a line, wondering where their house had gone.

Ezra's grandmother tried all the usual cures. She asked him to hold his breath, and the next hiccup knocked the clock off the wall. She asked him to stand on his head, and he hiccupped so hard that he landed in the hay.

At last, his little sister Pearl brought a cup of cold water and a slow, steady idea. "Count backward from twenty," she said, "and take a sip between every number."

Ezra tried it. Seventeen, sip. Twelve, sip. By the time he reached three, his hiccups had faded to a single small squeak.

The barn never moved back. It sat beside the pond, with a better view and shade from the willow tree, and Ezra's grandmother said it was the finest spot on the farm, and she thanked the hiccup for finding it.

Questions

1. What happened to the pig pen with the first big hiccup?

_____

_____

2. What cures did Ezra's grandmother try?

_____

_____

3. What cure finally worked?

_____

_____

4. Where did the barn end up?

_____

_____

5. Why did the cows stand in a line looking puzzled?

_____

_____

6. Why was Pearl's cure different from the grandmother's?

_____

_____

Words to know

hiccup: a quick, jerky sound made by the chest and throat
earthquake: a shaking of the ground
pasture: a field where animals eat grass
cures: ways to make a problem go away
steady: calm and even, not jumpy

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: _____

Ezra's Hiccup Moved the Barn

Square group

Out in the flat country, folks tell the tale of a farm boy named Ezra Cobb, who once suffered the most colossal case of hiccups in history. It began after breakfast on a Tuesday, and at first Ezra hiccupped quietly, like any ordinary boy. By noon, however, each hiccup carried the force of a small earthquake.

With the first enormous hiccup, the pig pen shifted three feet to the left. With the second, the chicken coop hopped clean over the fence, and by supper, the red barn had scooted a full yard across the pasture, while the bewildered cows stood in a line, wondering where their house had gone.

Ezra's grandmother attempted all of the traditional cures. She asked him to hold his breath, and the very next hiccup knocked the clock off the wall. She asked him to stand on his head, and he hiccupped so violently that he landed in the hay.

At last, his little sister Pearl arrived with a cup of cold water and a slow, steady idea. "Count backward from twenty," she suggested, "and take a sip between every number."

Ezra tried it. Seventeen, sip. Twelve, sip. By the time he reached three, his hiccups had dwindled to a single small squeak.

The barn never moved back. It settled beside the pond, with a better view and welcome shade from the willow tree, and Ezra's grandmother declared it the finest spot on the farm, and she thanked the hiccup for discovering it.

Questions

1. What happened to the pig pen with the first big hiccup?

_____

_____

2. What cures did Ezra's grandmother attempt?

_____

_____

3. What cure finally worked?

_____

_____

4. Where did the barn end up?

_____

_____

5. Why did the cows stand in a line looking bewildered?

_____

_____

6. Why was Pearl's cure different from the grandmother's?

_____

_____

Words to know

hiccup: a quick, jerky sound made by the chest and throat
earthquake: a shaking of the ground
pasture: a field where animals eat grass
cures: ways to make a problem go away
steady: calm and even, not jumpy

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: Ezra's Hiccup Moved the Barn

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

Circle: Ezra's Hiccup Moved the Barn

Easier · 224 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. It shifted three feet to the left.
2. She asked him to hold his breath and stand on his head.
3. Counting backward from twenty and taking a sip of cold water between numbers.
4. Beside the pond, near the shade of a willow tree.
5. The barn had moved and they did not know where their house had gone.
6. It was slow and calm, not sudden or hard, so Ezra could relax.

Triangle: Ezra's Hiccup Moved the Barn

This passage · 239 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. It shifted three feet to the left.
2. She asked him to hold his breath and stand on his head.
3. Counting backward from twenty while taking a sip of cold water between numbers.
4. Beside the pond, under the shade of a willow tree.
5. The barn had moved and they did not know where their house had gone.
6. It was slow and calm instead of sudden or hard, and that let Ezra relax.

Square: Ezra's Hiccup Moved the Barn

Harder · 247 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. It shifted three feet to the left.
2. She asked him to hold his breath and to stand on his head.
3. Counting backward from twenty while taking a sip of cold water between numbers.
4. Beside the pond, in the shade of a willow tree.
5. The barn had moved and they could not tell where their house had gone.
6. It was slow and calm instead of sudden or forceful, which allowed Ezra to relax.