Name: _____ Date: _____

Fog Nets in the Atacama Desert

Circle group

The Atacama Desert is in northern Chile. It is one of the driest places on Earth. Sometimes years go by with almost no rain. But thick fog often rolls in from the Pacific Ocean. Some villages catch that fog and make water from it.

The tool is a fog catcher. It is a tall net with small holes. It hangs between two posts on a hill where the wind blows fog inland. Tiny drops of water stick to the threads. The drops join together and get heavy. Then they slide down into a gutter. A pipe takes the water to a tank.

One net does not catch much water. But many nets can fill tanks for a whole village. People use the water for gardens and trees. Sometimes they drink it after it is tested and cleaned.

Fog catchers work best on slopes near the sea. Fog comes there often and the wind is steady. They need no engine and no electricity. That means they cost little to run.

Questions

1. Where is the Atacama Desert found?

_____

_____

2. What is a fog catcher made of?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the drops after they stick to the net?

_____

_____

4. Where does the water go after the gutter?

_____

_____

5. Why are fog catchers put on slopes near the sea?

_____

_____

6. Why are fog catchers cheap to run?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a place that gets very little rain
gutter: a narrow channel that carries water 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: _____

Fog Nets in the Atacama Desert

Triangle group

Along the coast of northern Chile lies the Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on Earth. In some spots, years can pass with hardly any rain. Yet the air near the Pacific Ocean is often full of thick, low fog, and a few communities have learned to turn that fog into drinking water.

The tool they use is surprisingly simple. A fog catcher is a tall, wide net of fine mesh stretched between two posts on a hillside where the wind blows fog inland. As the fog drifts through, tiny droplets of water stick to the threads of the net. The droplets join together, grow heavy, and slide down into a gutter at the bottom. From there the water runs through a pipe into a tank.

A single net does not collect a great deal, but many nets together can fill tanks for a village. People have used the water for gardens and for trees, and in some places for drinking after it has been tested and treated.

Fog catchers work best on mountain slopes close to the sea, where fog arrives often and the wind is steady. They have no engines and need no electricity, so they cost little to run. The idea has since been tried in other dry, foggy regions around the world.

Questions

1. Where is the Atacama Desert found?

_____

_____

2. What is a fog catcher made of?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the droplets after they stick to the net?

_____

_____

4. Where does the collected water go after the gutter?

_____

_____

5. Why are fog catchers placed on slopes near the sea?

_____

_____

6. Why are fog catchers cheap to run?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a place that gets very little rain
mesh: a net made of crossed threads with small gaps
droplets: very small drops of water
gutter: a narrow channel that carries water away
treated: cleaned so that it is safe to use

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: _____

Fog Nets in the Atacama Desert

Square group

Stretching along the coast of northern Chile, the Atacama Desert ranks among the driest regions anywhere on Earth, and in certain places several years can go by without any measurable rainfall. Nevertheless, the air above the nearby Pacific Ocean frequently carries dense, low-lying fog, and a handful of communities have discovered how to transform that fog into a dependable supply of water.

The equipment they rely on is remarkably simple. A fog catcher consists of a tall, wide net of fine mesh stretched between two sturdy posts on a hillside, positioned where winds push the fog inland. As the fog drifts through, minute droplets cling to the threads of the net, merge into larger drops, and eventually grow heavy enough to slide down into a gutter along the bottom edge. A pipe then carries the water into a storage tank.

Although a single net collects only a modest amount, a large number of them working together can fill tanks for an entire village. Residents have used the water for gardens and young trees, and in a few places for drinking once it has been tested and treated.

Fog catchers perform best on mountain slopes near the sea, where fog arrives often and the wind is steady. Because they need neither engines nor electricity, they are inexpensive to operate, and the idea has since been tried in other dry, foggy regions around the world.

Questions

1. In what part of the world is the Atacama Desert found?

_____

_____

2. What is a fog catcher made of, and how is it held up?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the droplets once they cling to the net?

_____

_____

4. Where does the collected water travel after it leaves the gutter?

_____

_____

5. Why do these nets perform best on slopes close to the sea?

_____

_____

6. What makes fog catchers inexpensive to operate?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a place that gets very little rain
mesh: a net made of crossed threads with small gaps
droplets: very small drops of water
gutter: a narrow channel that carries water away
treated: cleaned so that it is safe to use

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: Fog Nets in the Atacama Desert

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

Circle: Fog Nets in the Atacama Desert

Easier · 169 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. In northern Chile.
2. A tall net with small holes, hung between two posts.
3. They join together, get heavy, and slide into a gutter.
4. A pipe takes it to a tank.
5. Fog comes there often and the wind is steady.
6. They need no engine and no electricity.

Triangle: Fog Nets in the Atacama Desert

This passage · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. Along the coast of northern Chile.
2. A tall net of fine mesh stretched between two posts.
3. They join together, grow heavy, and slide into a gutter.
4. Through a pipe into a tank.
5. Fog arrives often there and the wind is steady, so more water sticks to the net.
6. They have no engines and need no electricity.

Square: Fog Nets in the Atacama Desert

Harder · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 11.5

1. Along the coast of northern Chile.
2. A tall net of fine mesh stretched between two sturdy posts.
3. They merge into larger drops and slide down into a gutter.
4. A pipe carries it into a storage tank.
5. Fog arrives often there and the wind is steady, so more water collects.
6. They need neither engines nor electricity.