Name: _____ Date: _____

Mabel's Eleven-Mile Sandwich

Circle group

Mabel Fitch ran the only bakery in the town of Crumb Creek. She was very proud of it. The town planned a Founders' Day picnic. Mabel promised a sandwich big enough for everyone. Folks smiled politely. Mabel meant it.

She began baking on Monday. By Wednesday her loaf went out of the bakery, down Main Street, and over the old stone bridge. By Friday it passed the school and the feed store. A family of ducks moved in to nap on the crust. Mabel kept going until the bread was eleven miles long.

The trouble was the filling. She sliced tomatoes by the wagonload. She spread mustard with a paint roller. She stacked a mountain of cheese on top. Then she stopped. A sandwich this long could not be flipped or folded or carried. Nobody could reach the middle.

Mabel sat on a fence and thought. Then she smiled. She sent a note to every house along the route. On Saturday morning the whole town came with plates and napkins.

Everyone picked a spot and ate. The people at the north end got the pickles. The people at the south end got the peaches. Mabel had added them by mistake. Nobody complained.

By sundown only a few crumbs were left. The ducks had the best seats in the house.

Questions

1. What did Mabel promise to bring to the picnic?

_____

_____

2. How long did Mabel's loaf of bread become?

_____

_____

3. What problem did Mabel face with the huge sandwich?

_____

_____

4. How did Mabel solve her problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the people smile politely at first?

_____

_____

6. What clues show this story is a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

founders: the people who started a town or group
crust: the hard outer part of bread
filling: the food that goes inside a sandwich or pie
route: the path that someone follows from one place to another
complained: said that something was wrong or not good

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: _____

Mabel's Eleven-Mile Sandwich

Triangle group

Mabel Fitch ran the only bakery in the town of Crumb Creek, and she was extremely proud of it. When the town announced a Founders' Day picnic, she promised to bring a sandwich big enough for everyone to share. Folks smiled politely, but Mabel meant every word.

She started baking on Monday. By Wednesday her loaf stretched out of the bakery, down Main Street, and over the old stone bridge, and by Friday it ran past the school and the feed store, where a family of ducks had moved in to nap on the crust. Mabel kept baking until the bread was eleven miles long.

The trouble came with the filling. She sliced tomatoes by the wagonload, spread mustard with a paint roller, and stacked a mountain of cheese on top. Then she stopped, because she realized that a sandwich this long could not be flipped, folded, or carried, and nobody could possibly reach the middle.

Mabel sat down on a fence and thought hard. Then she smiled. She sent a note to every house along the route, and on Saturday morning the whole town showed up with plates and napkins.

Everyone chose a spot and began to eat. The people at the north end got the pickles, while the people at the south end got the peaches, which Mabel had added by mistake, and nobody complained. By sundown, only a few crumbs were left, and the ducks had the best seats in the house.

Questions

1. What did Mabel promise to bring to the picnic?

_____

_____

2. How long did Mabel's loaf of bread become?

_____

_____

3. What problem did Mabel face with the huge sandwich?

_____

_____

4. How did Mabel solve her problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the people smile politely at first?

_____

_____

6. What clues show this story is a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

founders: the people who started a town or group
crust: the hard outer part of bread
filling: the food that goes inside a sandwich or pie
route: the path that someone follows from one place to another
complained: said that something was wrong or not good

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: _____

Mabel's Eleven-Mile Sandwich

Square group

Mabel Fitch ran the only bakery in the town of Crumb Creek, and she was exceedingly proud of it. When the town announced a Founders' Day picnic, she promised to bring a sandwich large enough for every single person to share. Folks smiled politely, but Mabel meant every word.

She began baking on Monday. By Wednesday her loaf stretched out of the bakery, down Main Street, and across the old stone bridge, and by Friday it extended past the school and the feed store, where a family of ducks had moved in to nap on the crust. Mabel kept baking until the bread measured eleven miles in length.

The real difficulty came with the filling. She sliced tomatoes by the wagonload, spread mustard with a paint roller, and stacked a mountain of cheese on top. Then she paused, because she realized that a sandwich of this size could never be flipped, folded, or carried, and nobody could possibly reach the middle.

Mabel sat down on a fence and thought very hard. Then she smiled. She sent a note to every house along the route, and on Saturday morning the entire town arrived with plates and napkins.

Everyone selected a spot and began to eat. The people at the north end received the pickles, while the people at the south end received the peaches, which Mabel had added by mistake, and nobody complained. By sundown, only a few crumbs remained, and the ducks enjoyed the best seats in the house.

Questions

1. What did Mabel promise to bring to the picnic?

_____

_____

2. How long did Mabel's loaf of bread become?

_____

_____

3. What problem did Mabel face with the enormous sandwich?

_____

_____

4. How did Mabel solve her problem?

_____

_____

5. Why did the people smile politely at first?

_____

_____

6. What clues show that this story is a tall tale?

_____

_____

Words to know

founders: the people who started a town or group
crust: the hard outer part of bread
filling: the food that goes inside a sandwich or pie
route: the path that someone follows from one place to another
complained: said that something was wrong or not good

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: Mabel's Eleven-Mile Sandwich

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

Circle: Mabel's Eleven-Mile Sandwich

Easier · 219 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. A sandwich big enough for everyone in town.
2. Eleven miles long.
3. It could not be flipped, folded, or carried, and nobody could reach the middle.
4. She asked the whole town to eat along the sandwich.
5. They did not really believe she could make a sandwich that big.
6. A sandwich eleven miles long, with ducks napping on it, is wild exaggeration.

Triangle: Mabel's Eleven-Mile Sandwich

This passage · 245 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. A sandwich big enough for everyone in town.
2. Eleven miles long.
3. It could not be flipped, folded, or carried, and nobody could reach the middle.
4. She invited the whole town to eat along the length of the sandwich.
5. They did not really believe she could make a sandwich that big.
6. A sandwich eleven miles long, with ducks napping on the bread, is wild exaggeration.

Square: Mabel's Eleven-Mile Sandwich

Harder · 249 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.4

1. A sandwich large enough for everyone in town to share.
2. Eleven miles in length.
3. It could never be flipped, folded, or carried, and nobody could reach the middle.
4. She invited the entire town to eat along the length of the sandwich.
5. They did not truly believe that she could make a sandwich that large.
6. A sandwich eleven miles long, with ducks napping on the crust, is outrageous exaggeration.