Name: _____ Date: _____

Singapore: A Whole Country on One Small Island

Circle group

Singapore is a country and a city at the same time. It sits on a small island near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. It is very close to the equator, so the weather is warm and humid all year. There is not much land, and millions of people live there. So planning matters in almost everything.

One answer to the lack of space is to build up. Many families live in tall apartment buildings. Some have gardens on the roofs and plants on the walls. Another answer is to make new land. Workers pile sand into shallow parts of the sea until dry ground appears. The country has grown larger this way.

Water is a second problem. The island has few rivers and lakes. Singapore catches rain in reservoirs. It cleans used water so it can be used again. It also buys some water from its neighbor, Malaysia.

Food is a joy in Singapore. People eat at hawker centers. These are big open halls with many small food stalls. Each stall cooks only a few dishes, and the cooks have often practiced for many years. A family can order noodles, rice, and soup from three stalls and eat together at one table.

Questions

1. Where does Singapore sit?

_____

_____

2. What are two ways Singapore deals with the lack of land?

_____

_____

3. Where does Singapore get its water?

_____

_____

4. What is a hawker center?

_____

_____

5. Why is the weather warm all year in Singapore?

_____

_____

6. Why does the country plan so carefully?

_____

_____

Words to know

peninsula: a piece of land almost surrounded by water
humid: full of moisture so the air feels sticky
reservoirs: lakes made to store water for people to use
stalls: small booths where food or goods are sold

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: _____

Singapore: A Whole Country on One Small Island

Triangle group

Singapore is a country and a city at the same time. It sits on a small island near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, very close to the equator, so the weather is warm and humid all year long. There is not much land, and millions of people live there. That means careful planning matters in almost everything.

One answer to a lack of space is to build upward. Many families live in tall apartment buildings, and some of these have gardens on the roofs and plants growing up the walls. Another answer is to make new land. Workers pile sand into shallow parts of the sea until dry ground appears, and the country has grown larger in this way.

Water is a second challenge, because the island has few rivers and lakes. Singapore catches rain in reservoirs, recycles used water until it is clean again, and buys some from its neighbor, Malaysia.

Food is a delight in Singapore. People often eat at hawker centers, which are big open-air halls filled with small stalls. Each stall cooks only a few dishes, and the cooks may have practiced them for many years. A family can order noodles, rice, and soup from three different stalls and sit down together at one table.

Questions

1. Where does Singapore sit?

_____

_____

2. What are two ways Singapore deals with a lack of land?

_____

_____

3. Where does Singapore get its water?

_____

_____

4. What is a hawker center?

_____

_____

5. Why is the weather warm all year in Singapore?

_____

_____

6. Why does the country plan carefully?

_____

_____

Words to know

peninsula: a piece of land almost surrounded by water
humid: full of moisture so the air feels sticky
reservoirs: lakes made to store water for people to use
recycles: treats something so it can be used again
stalls: small booths where food or goods are sold

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: _____

Singapore: A Whole Country on One Small Island

Square group

Singapore is a country and a city simultaneously. It occupies a small island near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, remarkably close to the equator, so the climate is warm and humid throughout the year. Land is scarce and millions of people live there, which means that careful planning matters in nearly every part of life.

One solution to the shortage of space is to build upward. Many families reside in tall apartment buildings, and some of these have gardens on their rooftops and plants climbing their walls. Another solution is to manufacture new land. Workers pile sand into shallow parts of the sea until dry ground emerges, and the country has expanded considerably in this manner.

Water presents a second challenge, because the island has few rivers and lakes. Singapore captures rain in reservoirs, recycles used water until it is clean again, and purchases some from its neighbor, Malaysia.

Food is a genuine delight in Singapore. People frequently dine at hawker centers, which are enormous open-air halls filled with small stalls. Each stall prepares only a handful of dishes, and the cooks have often spent many years perfecting them. A family can order noodles, rice, and soup from three different stalls and then sit down together at a single table.

Questions

1. Where does Singapore sit?

_____

_____

2. What are two ways Singapore handles its shortage of land?

_____

_____

3. Where does Singapore obtain its water?

_____

_____

4. What is a hawker center?

_____

_____

5. Why is the climate warm throughout the year in Singapore?

_____

_____

6. Why does the country plan so carefully?

_____

_____

Words to know

peninsula: a piece of land almost surrounded by water
humid: full of moisture so the air feels sticky
reservoirs: lakes made to store water for people to use
recycles: treats something so it can be used again
stalls: small booths where food or goods are sold

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: Singapore: A Whole Country on One Small Island

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

Circle: Singapore: A Whole Country on One Small Island

Easier · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. On a small island near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula.
2. It builds up with tall buildings and makes new land with sand from the sea.
3. From rain in reservoirs, cleaned used water, and some bought from Malaysia.
4. A big open hall with many small food stalls.
5. It is very close to the equator.
6. It has little land and many people, so space and water must be used wisely.

Triangle: Singapore: A Whole Country on One Small Island

This passage · 212 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.2

1. On a small island near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula.
2. It builds upward with tall buildings and makes new land by piling sand into the sea.
3. From rain caught in reservoirs, recycled water, and some bought from Malaysia.
4. A big open-air hall filled with small food stalls.
5. It is very close to the equator.
6. It has little land and many people, so space and water must be used wisely.

Square: Singapore: A Whole Country on One Small Island

Harder · 213 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.6

1. On a small island near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula.
2. It builds upward with tall buildings and creates new land by piling sand into the sea.
3. From rain caught in reservoirs, recycled water, and some purchased from Malaysia.
4. An enormous open-air hall filled with small food stalls.
5. It is remarkably close to the equator.
6. Land is scarce and many people live there, so space and water must be used wisely.