Name: _____ Date: _____

The Fox and the Canyon Echo

Circle group

In Cedar Canyon, the stone walls sent every sound back across the valley. A young fox named Wren found this wonderful. When she shouted from the rim, her voice came back from three sides. She could sound like a whole crowd.

At first it was a harmless game. She called, "Rabbits, the clover patch is open!" and giggled at the echo. But the game grew bolder. One afternoon, she yelled, "Wolves are coming! Run!" The echo thundered. The sleeping deer jumped up and ran in every direction. Wren rolled in the grass, laughing.

A few days later, she was on a narrow ledge when a rock slid under her paws. She fell into a crevice and could not climb out. "Help!" she cried. "Somebody help me!"

The echo carried her cries around the canyon. But the deer, the rabbits, and the old marmot only looked up and said, "That is Wren's trick again." They went on with their day.

Only as the shadows grew long did a slow badger wander by. He had slept through the false alarm, so he had not been fooled. He lowered a vine, and she climbed out, shaking.

"Thank you," she whispered. "I will never shout a false alarm again."

Questions

1. What did Wren find out about the canyon?

_____

_____

2. What false warning did Wren shout?

_____

_____

3. What happened to Wren on the narrow ledge?

_____

_____

4. Who finally helped Wren?

_____

_____

5. Why did the other animals ignore Wren's cries for help?

_____

_____

6. Why was the badger the only one who came?

_____

_____

Words to know

echo: a sound that bounces back after hitting something
rim: the top edge of something
crevice: a narrow crack in rock or the ground
marmot: a stocky, furry animal that lives in the mountains

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 Fox and the Canyon Echo

Triangle group

In Cedar Canyon, the stone walls threw every sound back across the valley, and a young fox named Wren found this wonderful. She discovered that if she shouted from the rim, her voice came back from three directions at once, so she could sound like a whole crowd. At first it was a harmless game, and she called out that the clover patch was open and giggled while the echo bounced around her. But the game grew bolder. One afternoon, she yelled that wolves were coming, and the echo thundered through the canyon until the sleeping deer sprang up and fled in every direction. Wren rolled in the grass, laughing.

A few days later, she was crossing a narrow ledge when a rock slid beneath her paws, and she tumbled into a crevice and could not climb out. She cried for help, and the echo carried her voice around the canyon. But the deer, the rabbits, and the old marmot only looked up and said that it was Wren's trick again, and they went on with their day.

Only as the shadows lengthened did a slow badger finally wander by. He had not been fooled the last time, because he had been asleep. He lowered a vine, and she climbed out, trembling. She whispered her thanks and promised never to shout a false alarm again. The canyon kept her echo, but it kept her promise, too.

Questions

1. What did Wren discover about the canyon?

_____

_____

2. What false warning did Wren shout?

_____

_____

3. What happened to Wren on the narrow ledge?

_____

_____

4. Who finally helped Wren?

_____

_____

5. Why did the other animals ignore Wren's cries for help?

_____

_____

6. Why was the badger the only one who came?

_____

_____

Words to know

echo: a sound that bounces back after hitting something
rim: the top edge of something
crevice: a narrow crack in rock or the ground
marmot: a stocky, furry animal that lives in the mountains
trembling: shaking, often from fear or cold

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 Fox and the Canyon Echo

Square group

In Cedar Canyon, the towering stone walls hurled every sound back across the valley, and a young fox named Wren found this absolutely wonderful. She discovered that if she shouted from the rim, her voice returned from three directions at once, so that she could sound like an entire crowd. At first it was a harmless game, and she called out that the clover patch was open and giggled while the echo bounced from cliff to cliff. But the game grew bolder. One afternoon, she bellowed that wolves were coming, and the echo thundered through the canyon until the sleeping deer sprang to their feet and scattered in every direction. Wren rolled in the grass, laughing uncontrollably.

A few days later, she was crossing a narrow ledge when a loose rock slid beneath her paws, and she tumbled into a crevice and discovered that she could not climb out. She pleaded for help, and the echo carried her desperate voice around the canyon. But the deer, the rabbits, and the old marmot merely glanced upward and muttered that it was Wren's trick again, and they resumed their ordinary routines.

Only as the shadows lengthened did a slow-moving badger finally wander past. He had not been fooled by the earlier alarm, because he had been fast asleep. He lowered a long vine, and she clambered out, trembling. She whispered her gratitude and promised never to shout a false alarm again. The canyon kept her echo, but it also kept her promise.

Questions

1. What did Wren discover about the canyon when she shouted from the rim?

_____

_____

2. What false warning did Wren bellow?

_____

_____

3. What happened to Wren while she crossed the narrow ledge?

_____

_____

4. Who finally came to help Wren?

_____

_____

5. Why did the other animals ignore Wren's cries for help?

_____

_____

6. Why was the badger the only animal who helped her?

_____

_____

Words to know

echo: a sound that bounces back after hitting something
rim: the top edge of something
crevice: a narrow crack in rock or the ground
marmot: a stocky, furry animal that lives in the mountains
trembling: shaking, often from fear or cold

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 Fox and the Canyon Echo

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

Circle: The Fox and the Canyon Echo

Easier · 205 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. Her voice came back from three sides, so she could sound like a crowd.
2. That wolves were coming.
3. A rock slid and she fell into a crevice and could not climb out.
4. A slow badger who lowered a vine.
5. They thought it was another of her tricks.
6. He had slept through the false alarm, so he had not been fooled before.

Triangle: The Fox and the Canyon Echo

This passage · 236 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. Her voice came back from three directions, so she could sound like a crowd.
2. That wolves were coming.
3. A rock slid and she tumbled into a crevice, unable to climb out.
4. A slow badger who lowered a vine.
5. They thought it was another of her tricks.
6. He had been asleep during the false alarm, so he had not been fooled before.

Square: The Fox and the Canyon Echo

Harder · 251 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. Her voice returned from three directions, so she could sound like an entire crowd.
2. That wolves were coming.
3. A loose rock slid and she tumbled into a crevice, unable to climb out.
4. A slow-moving badger who lowered a long vine.
5. They assumed it was another of her tricks.
6. He had been asleep during the earlier alarm, so he had not been fooled by her before.