Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tide Clock of Sandpiper Wharf

Circle group

Sandpiper Wharf had no church bells. It had the Tide Clock. This was a tall brass post at the end of the pier. A long hand moved up and down with the sea. When the water rose, the hand pointed to market time. When the water fell, the ferry captains knew it was time to sail. The clock hummed a low note each time the hour changed.

One foggy morning the hum stopped. The hand stuck halfway up the post. The ferries sat in the harbor. The captains did not know when to leave. Captain Orla said a stopped clock was worse than no clock.

Pavel sold bait from a bucket. He climbed down the ladder to look. Under the pier he found the trouble. A gull had made a nest of seaweed and rope. It was jammed in the slot where the float moved. The float could not move, so the hand could not move.

Pavel did not want the gull to lose her home. He tied a wooden crate to a post. He lined it with seaweed. He moved the eggs into the crate. Then he took the old nest away. The float bobbed free. The clock gave a happy hum. The ferries sailed on time, and the gull sat in her new home.

Questions

1. How did the Tide Clock tell the time?

_____

_____

2. What did the clock do each time the hour changed?

_____

_____

3. What was blocking the float under the pier?

_____

_____

4. Where did Pavel put the eggs?

_____

_____

5. Why did the ferries stay in the harbor?

_____

_____

6. Why did Pavel build a new home for the gull?

_____

_____

Words to know

wharf: a landing place where boats tie up
ferry: a boat that carries people across water
float: something that rides on top of the water

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 Tide Clock of Sandpiper Wharf

Triangle group

Sandpiper Wharf had no church bells and no town hall tower. It had the Tide Clock, a tall brass post at the end of the pier with one long hand that rose and fell with the sea. When the water climbed the post, the hand pointed to market time. When the water dropped, the ferry captains knew it was time to sail. Everyone in the harbor town trusted the clock completely, and it hummed a low, steady note whenever the hour changed.

One foggy morning the hum stopped. The hand froze halfway up the post, and the ferries sat in the harbor, unsure when to leave. Captain Orla grumbled that a stopped clock was far more troublesome than having no clock at all, since people would keep believing it.

Pavel, who sold bait from a bucket, climbed down the ladder to look. Under the pier he discovered the trouble, which was a gull that had stuffed a nest of seaweed and rope into the narrow slot where the float rode up and down. The float could not move, so the hand could not move either.

Pavel did not want to shove the nest out and leave the gull homeless. Instead he tied a wooden crate to a nearby piling and lined it with the same seaweed. He carefully moved the eggs into the crate, and then he lifted the old nest away. The float bobbed free, and the clock gave a deep, happy hum. By noon the ferries were sailing on time, and the gull sat proudly in her new home.

Questions

1. How did the Tide Clock tell the time?

_____

_____

2. What did the clock do whenever the hour changed?

_____

_____

3. What was blocking the float under the pier?

_____

_____

4. Where did Pavel put the eggs?

_____

_____

5. Why did the ferries sit in the harbor that morning?

_____

_____

6. Why did Pavel build a new home for the gull instead of just removing the nest?

_____

_____

Words to know

wharf: a landing place where boats tie up
ferry: a boat that carries people across water
float: something that rides on top of the water
piling: a strong post driven into the water
grumbled: complained in a low, unhappy voice

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 Tide Clock of Sandpiper Wharf

Square group

Sandpiper Wharf had no church bells and no town hall tower to announce the hour. Instead it had the Tide Clock, a tall brass post at the far end of the pier with a single long hand that rose and fell along with the sea. When the water climbed the post, the hand pointed toward market time, and when the water dropped away, the ferry captains understood that it was time to sail. Everyone in town trusted the clock, and it hummed a deep, low note whenever the hour changed.

One foggy morning the hum suddenly stopped. The hand froze halfway up the post, and the ferries sat idle in the harbor because their captains could not tell when to leave. Captain Orla grumbled that a stopped clock was far worse than having no clock at all.

Pavel, a boy who sold bait from a bucket, climbed down the ladder beneath the pier to investigate. There he discovered the trouble. A gull had crammed a tangled nest of seaweed and rope into the narrow slot where the float rode up and down. Because the float could not budge, the hand above could not budge either.

Pavel refused to shove the nest out and leave the gull without a home. Instead he tied a wooden crate to a nearby piling and lined it with the same seaweed. He carefully lifted the eggs into the crate, and only then did he pull the old nest free. The float bobbed loose, and the clock answered with a deep, contented hum. By noon the ferries were sailing on schedule, and the gull sat proudly in her new home.

Questions

1. How did the Tide Clock tell the time?

_____

_____

2. What did the clock do whenever the hour changed?

_____

_____

3. What was jamming the float beneath the pier?

_____

_____

4. Where did Pavel place the eggs before removing the nest?

_____

_____

5. Why did the ferries sit idle in the harbor that morning?

_____

_____

6. Why did Pavel build a new home instead of just removing the nest?

_____

_____

Words to know

wharf: a landing place where boats tie up
ferry: a boat that carries people across water
float: something that rides on top of the water
piling: a strong post driven into the water
grumbled: complained in a low, unhappy voice

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 Tide Clock of Sandpiper Wharf

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

Circle: The Tide Clock of Sandpiper Wharf

Easier · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. A brass hand moved up and down with the water.
2. It hummed a low note.
3. A gull's nest of seaweed and rope.
4. In a lined wooden crate.
5. The captains did not know when to sail without the clock.
6. He did not want the gull to lose her home.

Triangle: The Tide Clock of Sandpiper Wharf

This passage · 261 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. A brass hand rose and fell with the water level on a post.
2. It hummed a low note.
3. A gull's nest of seaweed and rope.
4. In a lined wooden crate tied to a piling.
5. The stopped clock left the captains unsure when to sail.
6. He did not want to leave the gull homeless.

Square: The Tide Clock of Sandpiper Wharf

Harder · 274 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. A long brass hand rose and fell with the level of the sea.
2. It hummed a deep, low note.
3. A gull's tangled nest of seaweed and rope.
4. In a lined wooden crate tied to a piling.
5. Without the working clock, the captains could not tell when to sail.
6. He did not want to leave the gull without a home.