Name: _____ Date: _____

Delivery Day in a City With No Roads

Circle group

In Venice, Italy, a delivery driver does not use a truck. The main streets are canals. People bring bread, furniture, and fresh vegetables by boat. Venice stands on over a hundred small islands in a shallow lagoon. Hundreds of bridges link them. Cars are not allowed in the old city.

The buildings rest on wooden poles. Long ago, builders pushed thousands of tree trunks deep into the soft mud until they hit firmer ground. They laid stone platforms on top, and the houses went on those. The wood stays strong because the mud keeps oxygen away and slows rot.

Life in Venice is shaped by the water. Boats carry everything, from garbage collectors to ambulances. The public bus is a water bus called a vaporetto. Children walk to school over bridges and along narrow lanes, or go by boat. Shops open early so that goods can be unloaded before the walkways fill up.

Packages that come by boat must still be carried the last bit by hand or on a small cart. A bridge with steps makes a simple delivery hard. So couriers learn the shortest routes by heart.

Questions

1. How do deliveries reach shops in Venice?

_____

_____

2. What do the buildings in Venice rest on?

_____

_____

3. What is a vaporetto?

_____

_____

4. Why does the wood under the buildings stay strong?

_____

_____

5. Why do shops in Venice open early?

_____

_____

6. Why do couriers learn the shortest routes by heart?

_____

_____

Words to know

canals: waterways dug by people for boats
lagoon: a shallow body of water separated from the sea
oxygen: a gas in the air that living things need
courier: a person who carries packages to others
unloaded: taken off a boat or truck

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: _____

Delivery Day in a City With No Roads

Triangle group

In the Italian city of Venice, a delivery driver does not use a truck. The main streets are canals, and the people who bring bread, furniture, and fresh vegetables arrive by boat. Venice stands on over a hundred small islands in a shallow lagoon, linked together by hundreds of bridges. Cars are not allowed in the old city at all.

The buildings rest on wooden poles. Long ago builders pushed thousands of tree trunks deep into the soft mud of the lagoon until they reached firmer ground beneath. Stone platforms were laid on top, and the houses went on top of those. The wood stays strong because the mud keeps oxygen away from it and slows rot.

Daily life has been shaped by the water. Boats carry everything, from garbage collectors to ambulances. The public bus is a water bus called a vaporetto. Children may go to school on foot, over bridges and narrow lanes, or by boat. Shops open early so that goods can be unloaded before the walkways fill up with people.

Packages that arrive by boat still have to be carried the last distance by hand or on a small cart. Even a bridge with steps can make a simple delivery a challenge, so couriers have learned the shortest routes by heart.

Questions

1. How do deliveries reach shops in Venice?

_____

_____

2. What do Venice's buildings rest on?

_____

_____

3. What is a vaporetto?

_____

_____

4. Why does the wood under the buildings stay strong?

_____

_____

5. Why do shops in Venice open early?

_____

_____

6. Why have couriers learned the shortest routes by heart?

_____

_____

Words to know

canals: waterways dug by people for boats
lagoon: a shallow body of water separated from the sea
oxygen: a gas in the air that living things need
courier: a person who carries packages to others
unloaded: taken off a boat or truck

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: _____

Delivery Day in a City With No Roads

Square group

In the Italian city of Venice, a delivery driver never climbs into a truck. The principal thoroughfares are canals, and the people who bring bread, furniture, and fresh vegetables arrive by boat. Venice occupies more than a hundred small islands scattered across a shallow lagoon, joined together by hundreds of bridges, and automobiles are forbidden throughout the old city.

The buildings rest upon wooden poles. Centuries ago, builders drove thousands of tree trunks deep into the soft mud of the lagoon until they reached firmer ground beneath. Stone platforms were laid across the tops of the poles, and the houses were constructed on those platforms. The wood remains strong because the mud keeps oxygen away from it and slows decay.

Daily life has been molded by the surrounding water. Boats carry nearly everything, from garbage collectors to ambulances, and the public bus is a water bus called a vaporetto. Children may travel to school on foot, crossing bridges and winding lanes, or by boat. Shops open at dawn so that merchandise can be unloaded before the walkways become crowded.

Even when a package arrives by boat, it must still be carried the final distance by hand or on a small cart. A bridge with steps can turn a simple delivery into a real challenge, and so couriers have memorized the shortest routes.

Questions

1. How do deliveries arrive at shops in Venice?

_____

_____

2. What do the buildings in Venice rest upon?

_____

_____

3. What is a vaporetto?

_____

_____

4. Why does the wood beneath the buildings remain strong?

_____

_____

5. Why do shops in Venice open at dawn?

_____

_____

6. Why have couriers memorized the shortest routes?

_____

_____

Words to know

canals: waterways dug by people for boats
lagoon: a shallow body of water separated from the sea
oxygen: a gas in the air that living things need
courier: a person who carries packages to others
unloaded: taken off a boat or truck

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: Delivery Day in a City With No Roads

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

Circle: Delivery Day in a City With No Roads

Easier · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. By boat along the canals.
2. Wooden poles pushed deep into the mud.
3. A water bus.
4. The mud keeps oxygen away and slows rot.
5. So goods can be unloaded before the walkways fill with people.
6. Bridges with steps make carrying hard, so a good route saves effort.

Triangle: Delivery Day in a City With No Roads

This passage · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.6

1. By boat along the canals.
2. Wooden poles pushed deep into the mud.
3. A water bus.
4. The mud keeps oxygen away and slows rot.
5. So goods can be unloaded before the walkways fill with people.
6. Bridges with steps make carrying packages hard, so a good route saves effort.

Square: Delivery Day in a City With No Roads

Harder · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.3

1. By boat along the canals.
2. Wooden poles driven deep into the mud.
3. A water bus.
4. The mud keeps oxygen away from it and slows decay.
5. So merchandise can be unloaded before the walkways become crowded.
6. Bridges with steps make carrying packages difficult, so a good route saves effort.