Name: _____ Date: _____

A Gold Record Sent Toward the Stars

Circle group

Two spacecraft named Voyager were launched in 1977. Both are still flying far past the planets. Each one has a gold-colored record on its side. The record is in a case that keeps it safe. It is like a message in a bottle. But the sea is space.

A team chose what to put on the records. There are greetings in many human languages. There are sounds from nature, like ocean waves, wind, thunder, birds and whales. There is music from many parts of the world. There are pictures of people, animals, plants and places. The pictures are stored as patterns that a player can turn back into images.

How would anyone know how to play it? The cover has a diagram. It uses simple drawings to show how to use the needle and the turntable. The record is made of metal. It was made to last a very long time.

Voyager will not pass near another star for a very long time. So no one will likely find the records. Still, they show something about us. People are curious. They hoped for a friendly reply from someone, somewhere.

Questions

1. When were the two Voyager spacecraft launched?

_____

_____

2. What does each Voyager have on its side?

_____

_____

3. What are two kinds of sounds on the records?

_____

_____

4. How does the cover show how to play the record?

_____

_____

5. Why is the record like a message in a bottle?

_____

_____

6. What do the records show about people?

_____

_____

Words to know

spacecraft: a vehicle built to travel through space
diagram: a drawing that explains how something works
turntable: the spinning part of a machine that plays records

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: _____

A Gold Record Sent Toward the Stars

Triangle group

Two spacecraft named Voyager were launched in 1977, and both are still traveling far beyond the planets. Each one carries a strange gift attached to its side, a gold-colored record in a protective case. The records are a message in a bottle, thrown into the ocean of space.

A team of scientists and writers chose what to put on them. The records hold greetings spoken in many human languages, from ancient ones to those used today. There are sounds of the natural world as well, such as ocean waves, wind, thunder, birds and whales. A long list of music from different parts of the world was included, along with pictures of people, animals, plants and places, stored as patterns that a player can turn back into images.

How would anyone know how to play a record? The cover has a diagram showing how to use the needle and the turntable, and it uses simple drawings to explain. The record is made of metal, and it was designed to last for a very long time.

Voyager will not pass near another star for a great many years, so it is quite unlikely that anyone will ever find the records. Still, they say something about us. People wanted to share their curiosity, and they hoped for a friendly reply from someone, somewhere.

Questions

1. When were the two Voyager spacecraft launched?

_____

_____

2. What does each Voyager carry on its side?

_____

_____

3. What are two kinds of sounds stored on the records?

_____

_____

4. How do the makers explain how to play the record?

_____

_____

5. Why is the record compared to a message in a bottle?

_____

_____

6. What does the passage say the records show about people?

_____

_____

Words to know

spacecraft: a vehicle built to travel through space
protective: made to keep something safe
diagram: a drawing that explains how something works
curiosity: a strong wish to learn about things
turntable: the spinning part of a machine that plays records

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: _____

A Gold Record Sent Toward the Stars

Square group

Two spacecraft named Voyager were launched in 1977, and both continue to travel far beyond the outermost planets. Each one carries an extraordinary gift fastened to its side: a gold-colored record sealed inside a protective case. The records are a kind of message in a bottle, cast into the vast ocean of space.

A committee of scientists and writers decided what the records should contain. They hold greetings spoken in many human languages, from ancient tongues to those used today. They also preserve sounds of the natural world, including ocean waves, wind, thunder, birdsong and the calls of whales. A long selection of music from many different cultures was added, together with pictures of people, animals, plants and places, which are stored as patterns that a player can convert back into images.

How would a stranger know how to play a record? The cover carries a diagram that explains, using simple drawings, how to set the needle on the turntable. The record itself is made of metal, and it was designed to survive for an enormously long time.

Voyager will not pass close to another star for a great many years, so it is quite unlikely that anyone will ever discover the records. Nevertheless, they reveal something important about us. People wanted to share their curiosity, and they hoped for a friendly reply from someone, somewhere.

Questions

1. When were the two Voyager spacecraft launched?

_____

_____

2. What does each Voyager carry fastened to its side?

_____

_____

3. What are two kinds of sounds preserved on the records?

_____

_____

4. How does the cover explain how to play a record?

_____

_____

5. Why is the record compared to a message in a bottle?

_____

_____

6. What does the passage say the records reveal about people?

_____

_____

Words to know

spacecraft: a vehicle built to travel through space
protective: made to keep something safe
diagram: a drawing that explains how something works
curiosity: a strong wish to learn about things
turntable: the spinning part of a machine that plays records

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: A Gold Record Sent Toward the Stars

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

Circle: A Gold Record Sent Toward the Stars

Easier · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. In 1977.
2. A gold-colored record in a case.
3. Any two of greetings, ocean waves, wind, thunder, birds, whales or music.
4. It has a diagram with simple drawings of the needle and turntable.
5. It is sent out for someone far away to find, and no one knows who or when.
6. People are curious and hope for a friendly reply.

Triangle: A Gold Record Sent Toward the Stars

This passage · 220 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.8

1. In 1977.
2. A gold-colored record in a protective case.
3. Any two of greetings, ocean waves, wind, thunder, birds, whales or music.
4. The cover has a diagram with simple drawings showing the needle and turntable.
5. It is sent out to be found by someone far away, with no way to know who or when.
6. They are curious and hope for a friendly reply from someone.

Square: A Gold Record Sent Toward the Stars

Harder · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.7

1. In 1977.
2. A gold-colored record sealed in a protective case.
3. Any two of greetings, ocean waves, wind, thunder, birdsong, whale calls or music.
4. It has a diagram with simple drawings showing the needle and the turntable.
5. It is sent out to be found by someone far away, with no way to know who or when.
6. They are curious and hope for a friendly reply from someone.