Name: _____ Date: _____

Foreign Coins in the Footbridge Donation Jar

Circle group

An old footbridge crossed Larch Creek. A glass jar was bolted to its railing. People dropped in coins to help pay for repairs. Each month, Wanjiru and her father counted the coins. In March, they found a surprise. The jar held coins from places nobody in town had visited.

There were bronze coins from Poland and a thin silver one from Canada. One had a lion on it, and Wanjiru did not know where it came from. "One traveler would not drop twenty," her father said.

Wanjiru took photos and spread the coins on the table. Her father's slips showed a date for every coin. Each Friday, one foreign coin came. None came on other days.

So Wanjiru waited on the bridge on a Friday. Near four o'clock, a mail truck stopped. The driver, Mr. Deshmukh, took a coin from a cloth bag. He dropped it in the jar and tipped his cap.

"My route includes the airport sorting center," he said. "Travelers leave extra coins in the mail bins. I thought the bridge could use them. I never get to say hello, so I leave a coin."

Wanjiru thanked him. The next Friday she taped a thank-you note beside the jar.

Questions

1. What was the glass jar on the footbridge for?

_____

_____

2. What surprise did Wanjiru and her father find in March?

_____

_____

3. On which day did a foreign coin appear?

_____

_____

4. Where did Mr. Deshmukh get his coins?

_____

_____

5. Why did Wanjiru think it was not one traveler?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell Wanjiru was thankful?

_____

_____

Words to know

footbridge: a narrow bridge made for people on foot
sorting: putting things into groups or places

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: _____

Foreign Coins in the Footbridge Donation Jar

Triangle group

The old footbridge over Larch Creek had a glass jar bolted to its railing, and anyone who crossed could drop in a coin to help pay for repairs. Every month, Wanjiru and her father counted the contents. That March, they discovered that the jar held coins from places that nobody in their small town had ever visited.

There were bronze pieces from Poland, a thin silver one from Canada, and a scalloped coin with a lion on it that Wanjiru could not identify. "It is almost as if a traveler emptied their pockets here," her father said, "but one traveler would not have dropped twenty."

Wanjiru photographed the coins and spread them across the kitchen table. She noticed that each one had been placed in the jar on a different day, because the paper slips her father used for the counting listed a date beside every deposit. Every Friday there was exactly one foreign coin, and none had appeared on any other day.

She began to wait on the bridge on Fridays. Near four o'clock, a postal truck stopped, and a driver named Mr. Deshmukh climbed out. He took a coin from a small cloth bag, dropped it into the jar, and tipped his cap.

"My route includes the airport sorting center," he explained. "Travelers leave leftover coins in the mail bins, and I figured the bridge could use them. I never get a chance to say hello, so I just leave a coin."

Wanjiru thanked him, and the next Friday she left him a thank-you note taped beside the jar.

Questions

1. What was the glass jar on the footbridge used for?

_____

_____

2. What odd thing did Wanjiru and her father discover in March?

_____

_____

3. On which day of the week did a foreign coin appear?

_____

_____

4. Where did Mr. Deshmukh get his coins?

_____

_____

5. Why did Wanjiru decide that one traveler had not left all the coins?

_____

_____

6. How can you tell Wanjiru was grateful to Mr. Deshmukh?

_____

_____

Words to know

footbridge: a narrow bridge made for people on foot
scalloped: having a curved, wavy edge
deposit: something put in a place to be kept
sorting: putting things into groups or places
leftover: remaining after the rest has been used

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: _____

Foreign Coins in the Footbridge Donation Jar

Square group

The old footbridge over Larch Creek had a glass jar bolted to its railing, and anyone who crossed could drop in a coin to help pay for repairs. Every month, Wanjiru and her father counted the contents, and that March they discovered that the jar held coins from countries that nobody in their small town had ever visited.

There were bronze pieces from Poland, a thin silver one from Canada, and a scalloped coin bearing a lion that Wanjiru could not identify. "It is almost as if a traveler emptied their pockets here," her father remarked, "but a single traveler would not have dropped twenty."

Wanjiru photographed the coins and spread them across the kitchen table. She noticed that each one had been placed in the jar on a different day, because the paper slips her father used for the monthly count listed a date beside every deposit. Every Friday there was exactly one foreign coin, and none had ever appeared on any other day of the week.

She began to wait on the bridge on Fridays. Near four o'clock, a postal truck pulled over, and a driver named Mr. Deshmukh climbed out. He took a coin from a small cloth bag, dropped it into the jar, and politely tipped his cap.

"My route includes the airport sorting center," he explained. "Travelers leave their leftover coins in the mail bins, and I figured the bridge could put them to good use. I never get a chance to say hello, so I simply leave a coin."

Wanjiru thanked him warmly, and the following Friday she taped a thank-you note beside the jar.

Questions

1. What was the purpose of the glass jar on the footbridge?

_____

_____

2. What unusual thing did Wanjiru and her father discover in March?

_____

_____

3. On which day of the week did a foreign coin always appear?

_____

_____

4. Where did Mr. Deshmukh obtain his coins?

_____

_____

5. Why did Wanjiru decide that one traveler had not left all of the coins?

_____

_____

6. What shows that Wanjiru was grateful to Mr. Deshmukh?

_____

_____

Words to know

footbridge: a narrow bridge made for people on foot
scalloped: having a curved, wavy edge
deposit: something put in a place to be kept
sorting: putting things into groups or places
leftover: remaining after the rest has been used

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: Foreign Coins in the Footbridge Donation Jar

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

Circle: Foreign Coins in the Footbridge Donation Jar

Easier · 203 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. People dropped in coins to help pay for repairs.
2. The jar held coins from places nobody in town had visited.
3. Every Friday, and no other day.
4. From mail bins at the airport sorting center, left by travelers.
5. The coins came on different days, and one traveler would not drop twenty.
6. She taped a thank-you note beside the jar the next Friday.

Triangle: Foreign Coins in the Footbridge Donation Jar

This passage · 262 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.2

1. People dropped in coins to help pay for repairs to the bridge.
2. The jar held coins from countries that nobody in their town had visited.
3. Every Friday, and no other day.
4. Travelers left them in mail bins at the airport sorting center on his route.
5. They appeared on different days, and one traveler would not have dropped twenty.
6. She left him a thank-you note taped beside the jar the next Friday.

Square: Foreign Coins in the Footbridge Donation Jar

Harder · 272 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.3

1. Passersby dropped in coins to help pay for repairs to the bridge.
2. The jar held coins from countries that nobody in their town had ever visited.
3. Every Friday, and never on any other day.
4. Travelers left them in mail bins at the airport sorting center on his route.
5. They arrived on different days, and a single traveler would not have dropped twenty.
6. She taped a thank-you note beside the jar the following Friday.