Name: _____ Date: _____

The Canyon Echo That Answered Late

Circle group

On the second afternoon of the hiking trip, twins Nolan and Maeve came to the edge of Whistler's Canyon. It was a deep gorge with red walls. The guidebook promised an amazing echo. Nolan cupped his hands and shouted, "Hello!" Nothing happened. He tried again, louder. A few seconds later the canyon boomed back, "Hello." Maeve grinned. She shouted, "Who wants pancakes?" Before the echo could answer, Nolan yelled, "I do!" Then the canyon, still working on the first question, roared, "Who wants pancakes?" A moment later it said, "I do!"

The twins soon saw that the echo was so slow that it mixed up every talk. Maeve shouted, "Is anyone out there?" Nolan added, "Hello, Mr. Echo!" The canyon seemed to say that someone was out there and that Mr. Echo was a hello. Then it said, "Pancakes!" for no reason, because an old shout was still bouncing around.

Maeve liked science, and she saw why. Sound travels at a steady speed. The canyon was so wide that each shout took several seconds to cross it and come back. Their next shout was on its way before the first one returned. She said they should take turns and wait for each answer. They tried it. Nolan shouted, "Thank you!" and waited a long time. At last the canyon said, "Thank you," in a polite voice. The twins agreed it was the best talk they ever had with a canyon.

Questions

1. Where did the twins stand when they shouted?

_____

_____

2. What did Maeve shout that got mixed up?

_____

_____

3. Why was the echo so slow?

_____

_____

4. What did Maeve say they should do?

_____

_____

5. Why did the canyon shout "Pancakes!" for no reason?

_____

_____

6. Why was it the best talk with a canyon?

_____

_____

Words to know

gorge: a deep, narrow valley with steep rocky sides

echo: a sound that bounces back after hitting a surface

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 Canyon Echo That Answered Late

Triangle group

On the second afternoon of the hiking trip, twins Nolan and Maeve reached the edge of Whistler's Canyon, a deep, red-walled gorge that the guidebook promised had "an astonishing echo." Nolan cupped his hands and shouted, "Hello!" Nothing happened. He tried again, louder, and a few seconds later the canyon replied with a booming "Hello." Maeve grinned, and then she shouted, "Who wants pancakes?" Before the echo could answer, Nolan yelled, "I do!" and the canyon, which had been slowly working its way through the first question, suddenly roared back, "Who wants pancakes?" and then, a moment afterward, "I do!"

The twins quickly discovered that the echo was so slow that it mixed up every conversation. When Maeve shouted, "Is anyone out there?" and Nolan added, "Hello, Mr. Echo!" the canyon seemed to reply that someone was out there and that Mr. Echo was a hello. Then it said, "Pancakes!" for no reason at all, because one of their earlier shouts was still bouncing around somewhere.

Maeve, who liked science, figured out why it happened. Sound travels at a steady speed, she explained, and the canyon was so wide that each shout needed several seconds to cross it and return. Their next shout was already on its way before the first one had come back. She suggested that they take turns and wait for each reply before speaking again. They tried it. Nolan shouted, "Thank you!" and waited a long, patient time. Eventually the canyon answered, "Thank you," in a voice that sounded polite. The twins agreed that this was the best conversation either of them had ever had with a canyon.

Questions

1. Where did the twins stand when they shouted?

_____

_____

2. What did Maeve shout that mixed up the echo?

_____

_____

3. Why did the echo take so long to answer?

_____

_____

4. What plan did Maeve suggest?

_____

_____

5. Why did the canyon shout "Pancakes!" for no reason?

_____

_____

6. Why did the twins call it the best conversation with a canyon?

_____

_____

Words to know

gorge: a deep, narrow valley with steep rocky sides
astonishing: so surprising that it amazes you
echo: a sound that bounces back after hitting a surface
booming: making a deep, loud, rolling sound
patient: able to wait calmly without getting upset

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 Canyon Echo That Answered Late

Square group

On the second afternoon of the hiking trip, twins Nolan and Maeve arrived at the rim of Whistler's Canyon, a deep, red-walled gorge that the guidebook promised possessed "an astonishing echo." Nolan cupped his hands around his mouth and shouted, "Hello!" Nothing happened whatsoever. He tried again, considerably louder, and several seconds later the canyon answered with a booming "Hello." Maeve grinned, and then she shouted, "Who wants pancakes?" Before the echo could respond, Nolan yelled, "I do!" and the canyon, which had been slowly working its way through the first question, suddenly roared back, "Who wants pancakes?" and then, a moment afterward, "I do!"

The twins quickly discovered that the echo was so sluggish that it scrambled every conversation they attempted. When Maeve shouted, "Is anyone out there?" and Nolan added, "Hello, Mr. Echo!" the canyon appeared to reply that someone was out there and that Mr. Echo was a hello. Then it called out, "Pancakes!" for no apparent reason, because one of their earlier shouts was still bouncing around somewhere among the cliffs.

Maeve, who had a passion for science, worked out why it was happening. Sound travels at a steady speed, she explained, and the canyon was so enormously wide that each shout required several seconds to cross it and return. Their next shout was already on its way before the previous one had come back. She proposed that they take turns and wait for each reply before speaking again. They tried it. Nolan shouted, "Thank you!" and then waited a long and patient time. Eventually the canyon answered, "Thank you," in a voice that sounded remarkably polite. The twins agreed that it was the best conversation either of them had ever had with a canyon.

Questions

1. Where did the twins stand when they shouted?

_____

_____

2. Which question of Maeve's got scrambled by the echo?

_____

_____

3. Why did the echo take so long to respond?

_____

_____

4. What did Maeve propose that they do?

_____

_____

5. Why did the canyon call out "Pancakes!" for no apparent reason?

_____

_____

6. Why did the twins call it the best conversation they had ever had with a canyon?

_____

_____

Words to know

gorge: a deep, narrow valley with steep rocky sides
astonishing: so surprising that it amazes you
echo: a sound that bounces back after hitting a surface
booming: making a deep, loud, rolling sound
patient: able to wait calmly without getting upset

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 Canyon Echo That Answered Late

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

Circle: The Canyon Echo That Answered Late

Easier · 240 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. At the edge of Whistler's Canyon.
2. She shouted, "Who wants pancakes?"
3. The canyon was so wide that each shout took several seconds to cross it and come back.
4. Take turns and wait for each answer.
5. An older shout was still bouncing around and came back late.
6. When they waited, the echo answered clearly and politely.

Triangle: The Canyon Echo That Answered Late

This passage · 273 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.3

1. At the edge of Whistler's Canyon.
2. She shouted, "Who wants pancakes?"
3. The canyon was so wide that each shout needed several seconds to cross and return.
4. They should take turns and wait for each reply before speaking again.
5. An earlier shout was still bouncing around and returned late.
6. Once they waited, the echo finally answered clearly and politely.

Square: The Canyon Echo That Answered Late

Harder · 290 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.4

1. At the rim of Whistler's Canyon.
2. She shouted, "Who wants pancakes?"
3. The canyon was so enormously wide that each shout required several seconds to cross it and return.
4. Take turns and wait for each reply before speaking again.
5. One of their earlier shouts was still bouncing among the cliffs and returned late.
6. Once they waited patiently, the echo answered clearly and politely.