Name: _____ Date: _____

Before Light Bulbs, There Were Candles

Circle group

Now we flip a switch. A light comes on. Long ago, there was no switch.

At night, a family lit a candle. The flame gave a soft glow. It lit a table or a book.

A candle gets short as it burns. Then you need a new one.

Questions

1. What do we flip to turn on a light?

_____

_____

2. What did a family light at night?

_____

_____

3. What kind of glow did the flame give?

_____

_____

4. What happens to a candle as it burns?

_____

_____

5. Why did a family need a new candle?

_____

_____

Words to know

candle: a stick of wax with a string that burns
flame: the bright, hot part of a fire
glow: a soft, gentle light
switch: a small button that turns a light on or off

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: _____

Before Light Bulbs, There Were Candles

Triangle group

Today we flip a switch and a light comes on. Long ago, there was no switch.

At night, a family lit a candle. The small flame gave a soft glow. It lit up a table or a book.

A candle gets shorter as it burns. When it is gone, you need a new one.

Questions

1. What do we do today to turn on a light?

_____

_____

2. What did a family light at night long ago?

_____

_____

3. What kind of glow did the flame give?

_____

_____

4. What happens to a candle as it burns?

_____

_____

5. Why did a family need a new candle after a while?

_____

_____

Words to know

candle: a stick of wax with a string that burns
flame: the bright, hot part of a fire
glow: a soft, gentle light
switch: a small button that turns a light on or off

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: _____

Before Light Bulbs, There Were Candles

Square group

Today we simply flip a switch and a light turns on, but long ago, homes had no such switches.

When night came, a family lit a candle instead. The small flame gave off a soft glow that was just bright enough to light up a table or the pages of a book.

As a candle burns, it slowly becomes shorter. Once it has burned away completely, the family needs to light a new one.

Questions

1. What do we flip today to turn on a light?

_____

_____

2. What did a family light when night came?

_____

_____

3. What kind of glow did the small flame give off?

_____

_____

4. What happens to a candle as it burns?

_____

_____

5. Why did a family have to light a new candle after a while?

_____

_____

Words to know

candle: a stick of wax with a string that burns
flame: the bright, hot part of a fire
glow: a soft, gentle light
switch: a small button that turns a light on or off

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: Before Light Bulbs, There Were Candles

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

Circle: Before Light Bulbs, There Were Candles

Easier · 48 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.2

1. A switch.
2. A candle.
3. A soft glow.
4. It gets short.
5. The first one burned down.

Triangle: Before Light Bulbs, There Were Candles

This passage · 54 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. We flip a switch.
2. A candle.
3. A soft glow.
4. It gets shorter.
5. The first candle burned all the way down.

Square: Before Light Bulbs, There Were Candles

Harder · 74 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. A switch.
2. A candle.
3. A soft glow.
4. It slowly becomes shorter.
5. The first candle had burned away completely.