Name: _____ Date: _____

Wash Day and the Washboard

Circle group

Long ago, there were no washing machines. People washed clothes by hand. Many used a washboard.

A washboard has ridges. Wet a shirt. Rub it on the ridges. The dirt comes out.

Then hang the clothes on a line. The wind and sun dry them.

Questions

1. What did many people use to wash clothes?

_____

_____

2. What does a washboard have?

_____

_____

3. Where did the clothes hang?

_____

_____

4. What dried the clothes?

_____

_____

5. Why rub the shirt on the ridges?

_____

_____

Words to know

washboard: a board with ridges for scrubbing clothes
ridges: long bumps in a row
dirt: dust or mud that makes things unclean
rub: to press and move back and forth

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: _____

Wash Day and the Washboard

Triangle group

Before washing machines, clothes were washed by hand. Many families used a washboard.

A washboard has ridges. You wet a shirt and rub it on the ridges. The ridges help get the dirt out.

Then the clothes hang on a line. The wind and the sun dry them.

Questions

1. What did many families use to wash clothes?

_____

_____

2. What does a washboard have?

_____

_____

3. Where did the clothes hang to dry?

_____

_____

4. What helped dry the clothes?

_____

_____

5. Why did a person rub the shirt on the ridges?

_____

_____

Words to know

washboard: a board with ridges for scrubbing clothes
ridges: long bumps in a row
dirt: dust or mud that makes things unclean
rub: to press and move back and forth

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: _____

Wash Day and the Washboard

Square group

Before there were washing machines, families washed their clothes by hand, and many of them used a washboard.

A washboard is a board covered with ridges. A person would wet a shirt and rub it back and forth across the ridges, and the ridges helped to scrub the dirt out.

Afterward, the clean clothes were hung on a line outside, where the wind and the sun slowly dried them.

Questions

1. What did many families use to wash their clothes?

_____

_____

2. What covers a washboard?

_____

_____

3. Where were the clean clothes hung?

_____

_____

4. What slowly dried the clothes?

_____

_____

5. Why did a person rub the wet shirt across the ridges?

_____

_____

Words to know

washboard: a board with ridges for scrubbing clothes
ridges: long bumps in a row
dirt: dust or mud that makes things unclean
rub: to press and move back and forth

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: Wash Day and the Washboard

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

Circle: Wash Day and the Washboard

Easier · 45 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.5

1. A washboard.
2. Ridges.
3. On a line.
4. The wind and sun.
5. It helps get the dirt out.

Triangle: Wash Day and the Washboard

This passage · 48 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. A washboard.
2. Ridges.
3. On a line.
4. The wind and the sun.
5. The ridges helped get the dirt out.

Square: Wash Day and the Washboard

Harder · 69 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. A washboard.
2. Ridges.
3. On a line outside.
4. The wind and the sun.
5. The ridges helped scrub the dirt out of the shirt.