Name: _____ Date: _____

Why a Popcorn Kernel Goes Pop

Circle group

A popcorn kernel is small. It is hard. Inside is a drop of water.

The kernel gets hot. The water turns to steam. The steam pushes. Pop! The kernel is white and soft now.

A grown-up cooks the corn. I listen.

Questions

1. What is inside a kernel?

_____

_____

2. What does the water turn into?

_____

_____

3. Who cooks the corn?

_____

_____

4. What color is the popped corn?

_____

_____

5. Why does the kernel pop?

_____

_____

Words to know

kernel: one small, hard seed of corn
steam: hot water that has turned into a gas
pop: to burst open with a quick sound
soft: not hard, easy to squish

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: _____

Why a Popcorn Kernel Goes Pop

Triangle group

A popcorn kernel is small and hard. Inside it is a tiny drop of water.

When the kernel gets hot, the water turns to steam. The steam pushes on the kernel. Pop! The kernel flips inside out. Now it is white and soft.

A grown-up cooks the corn. I stand back and listen.

Questions

1. What is inside a popcorn kernel?

_____

_____

2. What does the water turn into when it gets hot?

_____

_____

3. Who cooks the corn?

_____

_____

4. How does the kernel feel after it pops?

_____

_____

5. Why does the kernel go pop?

_____

_____

Words to know

kernel: one small, hard seed of corn
steam: hot water that has turned into a gas
pop: to burst open with a quick sound
soft: not hard, easy to squish

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: _____

Why a Popcorn Kernel Goes Pop

Square group

A popcorn kernel is small and very hard. Inside it is a tiny drop of water.

When the kernel gets hot, the water turns into steam. The steam pushes harder and harder on the kernel. Pop! The kernel flips inside out, and it turns white and soft.

A grown-up cooks the corn while I stand back and listen to the popping.

Questions

1. What is hiding inside a popcorn kernel?

_____

_____

2. What does the water become when the kernel gets hot?

_____

_____

3. Who cooks the corn?

_____

_____

4. How does the kernel look and feel after it pops?

_____

_____

5. Why does the kernel burst open with a pop?

_____

_____

Words to know

kernel: one small, hard seed of corn
steam: hot water that has turned into a gas
pop: to burst open with a quick sound
soft: not hard, easy to squish

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: Why a Popcorn Kernel Goes Pop

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

Circle: Why a Popcorn Kernel Goes Pop

Easier · 42 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. A drop of water.
2. Steam.
3. A grown-up.
4. White.
5. The steam pushes on it.

Triangle: Why a Popcorn Kernel Goes Pop

This passage · 54 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. A tiny drop of water.
2. Steam.
3. A grown-up.
4. Soft.
5. The steam pushes on it until it bursts open.

Square: Why a Popcorn Kernel Goes Pop

Harder · 62 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. A tiny drop of water.
2. Steam.
3. A grown-up.
4. White and soft.
5. The steam pushes on it harder and harder until it flips inside out.