Name: _____ Date: _____

Writing in Wet Clay

Circle group

Long ago, some places had no paper. People wrote on clay.

The clay was wet. A writer pressed a stick in it. The stick made marks.

The clay dried. The marks stayed. Some pieces are still here.

Questions

1. What did these people write on?

_____

_____

2. What did the writer press in the clay?

_____

_____

3. Was the clay wet or dry for the marks?

_____

_____

4. What did the marks do when the clay dried?

_____

_____

5. Why can we see some clay pieces now?

_____

_____

Words to know

clay: soft earth that you can shape
wet: covered with water
marks: small lines or dots
dried: lost all the water

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: _____

Writing in Wet Clay

Triangle group

Long, long ago, there was no paper in some places. People wrote on clay.

The clay was wet and soft. A writer pressed a stick into it. The stick made small marks.

Then the clay dried. The marks stayed. Some of those clay pieces are still here now.

Questions

1. What did these people write on?

_____

_____

2. What did the writer press into the clay?

_____

_____

3. Was the clay wet or dry when the writer made marks?

_____

_____

4. What happened after the clay dried?

_____

_____

5. Why can we still read some clay pieces today?

_____

_____

Words to know

clay: soft earth that you can shape
wet: covered with water
marks: small lines or dots
dried: lost all the water

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: _____

Writing in Wet Clay

Square group

Thousands of years ago, there was no paper in some parts of the world. Instead, people wrote on clay.

The clay was wet and soft. A writer pressed the end of a stick into it, and the stick left small marks.

Then the clay dried hard. Because the marks stayed in place, some of those pieces of clay are still with us today.

Questions

1. What did people write on when there was no paper?

_____

_____

2. What did the writer press into the clay?

_____

_____

3. Was the clay wet or hard when the marks were made?

_____

_____

4. What happened to the marks after the clay dried hard?

_____

_____

5. Why are some clay pieces still with us today?

_____

_____

Words to know

clay: soft earth that you can shape
wet: covered with water
marks: small lines or dots
dried: lost all the water

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: Writing in Wet Clay

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

Circle: Writing in Wet Clay

Easier · 37 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.1

1. Clay.
2. A stick.
3. Wet.
4. They stayed.
5. The marks stayed when the clay dried.

Triangle: Writing in Wet Clay

This passage · 48 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. Clay.
2. A stick.
3. Wet and soft.
4. The marks stayed.
5. The marks stayed in the clay when it dried, so they did not wash away.

Square: Writing in Wet Clay

Harder · 63 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. Clay.
2. The end of a stick.
3. Wet and soft.
4. They stayed in place.
5. The marks stayed in the clay once it dried hard, so they did not wash away.