Use Text Features

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Making Maple Syrup

Every spring, farmers in Vermont and Canada turn tree sap into sweet syrup. It is slow work, but the result is worth it.

When Sap Runs

Maple trees store sugar in their roots over the winter. In early spring, nights are below freezing and days are above freezing. This change in temperature makes sap flow up through the tree. The sap season lasts only four to six weeks.

Tapping the Tree

Farmers drill a small hole, called a tap hole, into the trunk. They push in a metal spout. Sap drips out of the spout into a bucket or a plastic tube. A healthy tree is not harmed by a tap. The hole heals in about a year.

Photo caption: A metal spout lets sap drip into a covered bucket. The cover keeps out rain and snow.

From Sap to Syrup

Fresh sap looks like water and tastes only a little sweet. Farmers boil it in a large flat pan called an evaporator. As the water turns to steam, the sap gets thicker and sweeter. It takes many hours of boiling.

Table: How Much Sap Makes Syrup
10 gallons of sap make 1 quart of syrup.
40 gallons of sap make 1 gallon of syrup.
80 gallons of sap make 2 gallons of syrup.

Sidebar: Did You Know?
Native peoples of the Northeast made maple sugar long before Europeans arrived. They taught early settlers how to collect sap.

Glossary
evaporator: a wide, flat pan used to boil sap
sap: the watery liquid that flows inside a tree

1. Under which heading would you read about why sap starts to flow?

When Sap Runs From Sap to Syrup Tapping the Tree

2. Use the table. How much sap is needed to make 1 gallon of syrup?

40 gallons 80 gallons 10 gallons

3. What does the photo caption tell you that the paragraphs do not?

The bucket's cover keeps out rain and snow.

Sap is boiled in a flat pan.

The sap season lasts four to six weeks.

4. Use the glossary. What is an evaporator?

a bucket that collects the sap

a wide, flat pan used to boil sap

a metal spout pushed into a tree

5. Which fact appears only in the sidebar?

Native peoples taught settlers to collect sap.

A tap hole heals in about a year.

Fresh sap tastes only a little sweet.

6. What is the section under the heading "Tapping the Tree" mostly about?

what words in the text mean

how long the sap must boil

how farmers collect sap from a tree

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Circle the answer.

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