

Read the passage. Then answer each question.

Max's Good Habit

Max reads more than anyone he knows. He loves to read during all of his free time. His friends tease him because he would rather read than play video games, but his parents and his teachers are proud of him. They say reading is important, and it will help him learn about the world around him. They also tell him it is a good habit to read on a regular basis.

One day Max was reading a magazine article about volcanoes. He told his friends all about volcanoes and what causes them to erupt. The very next week, his class was assigned a science project about volcanoes. Guess who everyone wanted in their project group? Max's friends weren't teasing him anymore.



Max ended up being in a group with Liz, Anna and Josh. The assignment was to create a poster board with information about volcanoes and to build a volcano model.

Max made copies of the magazine article about volcanoes so his project partners could read about them too. They also went to the library to look for more information about volcanoes.

The group met at Anna's house that night to organize the information and decide what they wanted to put on the poster board. They all asked Max what he thought was most important. Then they decided on the following together.

What causes volcanoes to erupt? The release of pressure when magma rises up through cracks in the Earth's crust.

How do volcanoes form? Lava from eruptions cools and forms new crust. The crust builds up after several eruptions to form a volcano.

How hot is lava? Lava can get as hot as 1,165 Fahrenheit.

The next night they met at Josh's house to build their volcano. They used cardboard and modeling clay. First they made a volcano shape with the cardboard, and then they covered the shape in brown and red clay. The red was lava flowing down the volcano. They also attached red clay to the top of the volcano to make it look like it was erupting.



The volcano looked great. Max, Liz, Anna and Josh were very proud of their hard work. When they turned in their project, their teacher was proud too. Thanks to Max's good habit, they earned an A+ on both parts of the project.

Answer the Questions:

1. What would Max rather do than play video games?
2. What type of science project was his class assigned?
3. Who wanted Max in their project group?
4. How many people were in Max's group?
5. Where did the group meet on the second night?
6. What is Max's good habit? Why is it good?

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Anna and Her Basketball Adventure

A group of teenage boys was playing basketball on the court at the park. The basketball court didn't have a fence around it. If one of the boys missed the basket, someone had to catch the basketball quickly so it wouldn't bounce too far away.

One of the boys was showing off, and he tossed the ball with all of his strength from the one end of the court toward the basket on the other end. The ball was flying like a rocket over the heads of all of the other boys. Then it kept right on flying. It flew straight over the basket and out into the field.



Anna was sitting at the end of the field near the pond watching the ducks swim. She heard some yelling and turned to see a big orange object headed her way. The yelling was coming from the teenage boys.

"Stop the ball," one of them shouted.

The ball landed a few feet away from her. It started rolling and was heading right for the pond. The ducks saw it nearing and started flapping their wings wildly in fear.

Anna saved the ducks and the ball. She threw her arms out to stop the ball just as it was about to splash into the water.

"Bring it over here," called one of the boys.

Anna shyly walked the ball over to the court. She was only in grade school and older kids made her nervous. They ended up being very nice though.

"Thanks kiddo," they all said at once.

"Can I try a shot?" Anna asked the boys.

The boys said, "Sure," but they all chuckled because Anna was so much younger and shorter than them. They didn't think she would be able to toss the ball even halfway to the basket.

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What Are Clouds?

A cloud is made of water drops or ice crystals floating in the sky. There are many kinds of clouds. Clouds are an important part of Earth's weather.

How Do Clouds Form?

The sky can be full of water. But most of the time you can't see the water. The drops of water are too small to see. They have turned into a gas called water vapor. As the water vapor goes higher in the sky, the air gets cooler. The cooler air causes the water droplets to start to stick to things like bits of dust, ice or sea salt.



What Are Some Types of Clouds?

Clouds get their names in two ways. One way is by where they are found in the sky. Some clouds are high up in the sky. Low clouds form closer to Earth's surface. In fact, low clouds can even touch the ground. These clouds are called fog. Middle clouds are found between low and high clouds.

Another way clouds are named is by their shape. Cirrus clouds are high clouds. They look like feathers. Cumulus clouds are middle clouds. These clouds look like giant cotton balls in the sky. Stratus clouds are low clouds. They cover the sky like bed sheets.

What Causes Rain?

Most of the water in clouds is in very small droplets. The droplets are so light they float in the air. Sometimes those droplets join with other droplets. Then they turn into larger drops. When that happens, gravity causes them to fall to Earth. We call the falling water drops "rain." When the air is colder, the water may form snowflakes instead. Freezing rain, sleet or even hail can fall from clouds.

Why Does NASA Study Clouds?

Clouds are important for many reasons. Rain and snow are two of those reasons. At night, clouds reflect heat and keep the ground warmer. During the day, clouds make shade that can keep us cooler. Studying clouds helps NASA better understand Earth's weather. NASA uses satellites in space to study clouds.



NASA also studies clouds on other planets. Mars has clouds that are like the clouds on Earth. But other planets have clouds that aren't made of water. For example, Jupiter has clouds made of a gas called ammonia.

[Via NASA Educational Technology Services]

Answer the Questions:

1. What do drops of water turn into?
2. What are two ways clouds get their names?
3. What kind of clouds are a high clouds?
4. What clouds look like giant cotton balls?
5. What causes droplets of water to fall to Earth?
6. What does NASA use to study clouds?

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