Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Water Bottle Rocket: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 210 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🚀 The Water Bottle Rocket

Leo's science club was having a rocket contest. Each team had to build a rocket from a plastic soda bottle. The rockets would be filled partly with water and pumped full of air. When released, the air pressure would push the water out, shooting the rocket upward.

Leo's team built a rocket with three cardboard fins and a pointed paper nose. On their first test, the rocket wobbled, flipped over, and crashed into a bush. Their teammate Ava frowned. "It's not stable," she said.

They studied pictures of real rockets. They noticed that real rockets had fins evenly spaced near the bottom. Leo's team had placed their fins too high. They also learned that adding a little clay to the nose cone moves the weight forward, which helps a rocket fly straight.

The team rebuilt the rocket with four evenly spaced fins near the base and a clay-weighted nose. They also tested different amounts of water. Too much water made it heavy. Too little gave it no push. About one third full worked best.

On contest day, their rocket shot straight up like an arrow, reaching higher than the school roof. It came in second place. "Our first rocket crashed in a bush," Leo said, "but the crash taught us everything."

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. a science teacher explains air B. a boy loses a contest and quits C. a team builds a real space rocket D. a team learns from a failed rocket and improves it

2. **Detail:** What were the rockets made from?

   A. plastic soda bottles B. paper bags C. metal cans D. wood

3. **Sequence:** What happened on the first test?

   A. The rocket won first place. B. The bottle exploded.

   C. The rocket wobbled, flipped, and crashed into a bush. D. Nothing happened.

4. **Detail:** Why did they add clay to the nose cone?

   A. to keep water in B. to make it pretty C. to move the weight forward so it flies straight D. to make it lighter

5. **Detail:** How full of water worked best?

   A. empty B. half full of sand C. completely full D. about one third full

6. **Inference:** What did Leo mean when he said "the crash taught us everything"?

ANSWER KEY

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6. **Inference:** What did Leo mean when he said "the crash taught us everything"?

   Studying why the first rocket failed helped them build a better one.