

Ice City

by Jeff Ives

This winter festival is both freezing and fun.

Welcome to the city of ice! Beginning in January, the city of Harbin in northeastern China transforms, or changes, into a winter wonderland. The ice festival is a popular tourist attraction. It has been drawing crowds for over 45 years. Organizers expect millions of visitors to pour into the city's parks this year. There, they will see hundreds of snow sculptures and some huge buildings made with bricks of ice.

The Right Temperature

Harbin is the coldest city in China. The temperature in the city is below freezing for more than six months of the year. (The freezing point of water is 32 degrees Fahrenheit.) In Harbin, the temperature can fall below zero. That gives people there a great opportunity, or chance, to build with tons of snow and ice. In fact, they use enough snow and ice to fill 90 large swimming pools!

In December, 3,000 workers began creating the winter amusement park. They carved giant castles, friendly dragons, slippery slides, and even working restaurants out of ice. Some of the buildings and sculptures have colorful lights that are lit up at night.

Many of the ice sculptures are made by teams of artists from around the world. When visitors come to look at the creations, they have to watch their step. Not only are the buildings made of ice, but so are many of the walkways and railings!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Beginning in January, the city of Harbin transforms into a winter wonderland. What effect does this have?

- A. The city of Harbin loses a lot of money.
- B. The people who live in Harbin leave the city.
- C. Millions of tourists visit the city.
- D. Millions of people start to build ice sculptures.

2. Based on the text, what might cause people to build hundreds of snow sculptures and huge ice buildings in Harbin?

- A. They want to see these snow sculptures and ice buildings melt in the warmer months.
- B. They want to sell these snow sculptures and ice buildings to other cities in China.
- C. They want to use these snow sculptures and ice buildings to stop tourists from visiting Harbin.
- D. They know these snow sculptures and ice buildings will attract millions of tourists.

3. According to the text, not only are the buildings for the winter festival made of ice, but so are many of the walkways and railings. What effect does the text suggest this might have?

- A. The visitors will most likely decide not to attend the winter festival.
- B. The temperatures in Harbin might drop.
- C. The visitors might slip on the ice.
- D. The builders might break the ice sculptures.

4. Based on the text, why does the author call Harbin "the city of ice"?

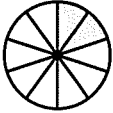
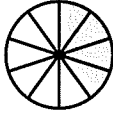
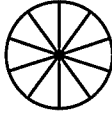
- A. There is a lot of snow and ice in Harbin.
- B. People build a lot of ice sculptures in Harbin for the winter festival.
- C. A lot of ice is sold in Harbin throughout the year.
- D. People in Harbin live and work in buildings made of ice.


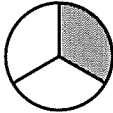

5. What does the word "pour" mean in the first paragraph?

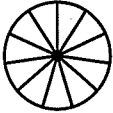
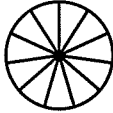
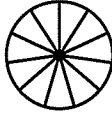
Name : _____ Score : _____

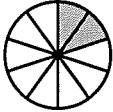
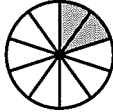
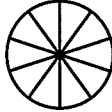
Teacher : _____ Date : _____

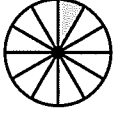
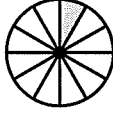
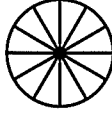
Visually Adding Simple Fractions

1)  +  = 
 $\frac{2}{10} + \frac{4}{10} =$ _____

2)  +  = 
 $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} =$ _____

3)  +  = 
 $\frac{2}{11} + \frac{6}{11} =$ _____

4)  +  = 
 $\frac{2}{10} + \frac{2}{10} =$ _____

5)  +  = 
 $\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} =$ _____

Name _____

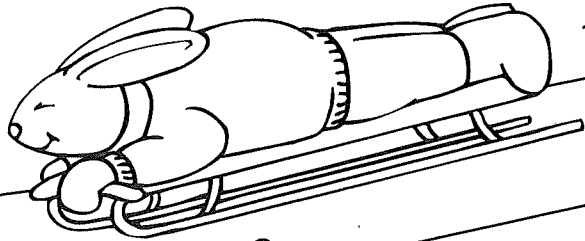
Fact and opinion

Winter Wonderland

Read the statement on each sled.

If the statement is a **fact**, lightly color the sled blue.

If the statement is an **opinion**, lightly color the sled red.



1.

Winter is the coldest season of the year.

2.

Squirrels store food to eat during the winter.

3.

Squirrels are smart animals.

6.

Nights last longer than days during the winter.

4.

Winter weather is nice.

5.

Most trees lose their leaves in the winter.

9.

Some animals spend most of the winter sleeping.

7.

Each snowflake is a different shape.

8.

It is fun to build a snowman.

12.

Ice can be dangerous.

10.

Winter is the prettiest time of the year.

11.

The best thing to do in the snow is sled.