

A Playground Problem

by Rachelle Kreisman



Have you ever built a model? A model is a small copy of something. People make models of buildings, cars, and many other things. Models can be fun to build. They can also communicate ideas to other people.

Let's say your town wants to build a playground. However, the town only has a small amount of money to spend.

People are chosen to design and build the playground. They know they must keep costs low. The design team decides to save money by reusing materials. The team will use old tires to make swings. The designers will recycle plastic bottles and milk jugs to make rides. Someone suggests building play tunnels out of old plastic tubes.

Those ideas will save money. The ideas will also help the earth by not making more trash.

The team builds a model using recycled materials. The designers bring their model to the town leaders. The leaders look it over. They ask lots of questions. The leaders ask for some changes, but they like what they see.

The model helps everyone understand how the playground can work. Soon, the playground is built. It looks like the model, only much bigger!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a model?

- A. a big copy of something
- B. a small copy of something
- C. an old copy of something

2. The article explains what models can do. What can models do?

- A. Models can put the people making them in danger.
- B. Models can make a simple idea very confusing.
- C. Models can communicate ideas to other people.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"People are chosen to design and build the playground. They know they must keep costs low. The design team decides to save money by reusing materials."

What can be concluded from these sentences about the cost of reusing materials?

- A. Reusing materials costs the same amount of money as using new materials.
- B. Reusing materials costs less money than using new materials.
- C. Reusing materials costs more money than using new materials.

4. Read these sentences from the text.

"Models can be fun to build. They can also communicate ideas to other people."

What sentence from the article supports the statement that models can communicate ideas to other people?

- A. "The model helps everyone understand how the playground can work."
- B. "The team builds a model using recycled materials."
- C. "People make models of buildings, cars, and many other things."

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. A model of a playground shows how models can be used to communicate ideas.
- B. Models of cars are more fun to build than models of buildings are.
- C. If you want the leaders of a town to listen to you, you have to build a model and bring it to them.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Let's say your town wants to build a playground. However, the town only has a small amount of money to spend."

Why does the author use the word "however" here?

- A. to give readers an example of something discussed in the previous paragraph
- B. to introduce information that will affect something that has just been stated
- C. to ask readers an important question about the main idea of the article

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

The people designing the playground must keep costs low, _____ they decide to reuse materials.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. Whom do the designers of the model playground bring their model to?

9. What does the model playground brought to the town leaders use?

10. Why might the town leaders like the model they see? Support your answer with evidence from the text.