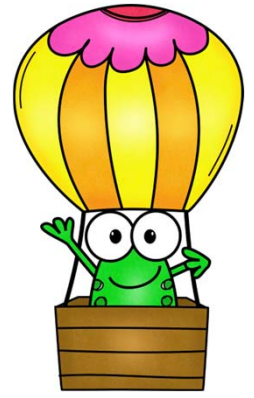


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Hot Air Balloon Fun



Imagine floating high above the ground, carried by nothing but a giant, colorful balloon. You're not in an airplane or a helicopter—no engines, no noise. Just you, the breeze, and the whisper of adventure. Welcome to the world of hot air balloons!

Hot air balloons are like wizards—they use science to create magic. Here's how it works: Inside the balloon, there's a special fabric envelope that holds the air. But not just any air—hot air! The pilot has a secret weapon: a burner. It's like a dragon's breath, but friendlier. When the pilot turns on the burner, flames dance, and the air inside the balloon gets hotter and lighter.

Why does hot air rise? Well, think of it as a cozy blanket. When you're cold, you snuggle under the blanket to warm up. Hot air does the same thing—it snuggles up and rises because it's lighter than the cooler air around it. It's like a bubble of warmth lifting you toward the sky. As the balloon fills with hot air, it stretches and expands, ready for its journey. The basket below you is your trusty steed—a woven basket that carries you and your fellow adventurers. You wave to the ground crew, and with a gentle tug, you're off! Up, up, and away! The world below shrinks, and you become a tiny dot in the vast blue canvas. The wind whispers secrets in your ear, and you feel weightless, like a feather riding a gentle breeze. You're not just flying; you're dancing with the clouds. But wait, how does the pilot steer this floating wonder? Here's the trick: The burner isn't just for warmth; it's also your compass. By adjusting the flames, the pilot can control your altitude. Want to climb higher? More flames! Descending? A little less heat, please. It's like playing a magical piano—the notes of fire guide your ascent and descent.

And the wind? It's your friend. The pilot can't steer left or right like a car, but the wind currents gently nudge you in different directions. You're a leaf on the breeze, exploring the sky's hidden corners.

All adventures must come to an end, and so does your balloon ride. The ground crew waits, their eyes scanning the fields. The pilot aims for a soft landing spot—a grassy meadow or a friendly farmer's field. As you descend, the world grows bigger, and the ground rushes up to meet you. Bump! You touch down, and the balloon sighs and deflates. You step out, your heart still soaring. You've danced with the wind, whispered to the clouds, and become part of the sky. And as you walk away, you know that hot air balloons aren't just vehicles—they're dreams stitched together with science and wonder.

5**Hot Air Balloon Fun!**

Answer according to the reading passage:

1. What gas fills a hot air balloon?

- a. helium
- b. oxygen
- c. hot air

2. What causes the hot air balloon to rise?

- a. hot air being lighter
- b. wind
- c. cold air rising

3. What is the purpose of the burner in the hot air balloon?

- a. keep everyone warm
- b. heat the air inside the balloon
- c. create flames

4. What guides the direction of the balloon?

- a. turning the burner
- b. wind currents
- c. the gps

5. When a hot air balloon descends, what happens to the air inside the balloon?

- a. expands
- b. gets colder
- c. changes to helium

Hot Air Balloon Fun!

Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
 2. Making Connections
 3. Summarizing
 4. Visualizing
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1. How does the lack of a steering mechanism in hot air balloons compare to other modes of transportation? What advantages and challenges does this present?
 2. Imagine you're a hot air balloon pilot. Describe the feeling as you ascend into the sky, leaving the ground behind.
 3. Discuss the role of wind patterns in determining the balloon's course. How might different wind conditions affect your journey?
 4. Imagine you're a cloud whisperer. What would you share and describe with the clouds as you float alongside them?
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- Reflect on the historical significance of hot air balloons. How have they inspired human imagination and exploration?
 - Discuss the role of wind patterns in determining the balloon's course. How might different wind conditions affect your journey?
 - If you could take a hot air balloon ride anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
 - Would you rather fly in a hot air balloon or a helicopter? Explain the reasons for your choice.