COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Zara Builds with Damp Sand

Zara Builds with Damp Sand | Suggested ages 3-5



Zara tests dry, overly wet, and damp sand to build a castle that keeps its shape.

Read, talk, and discover

The complete story is followed by questions and a separate answer guide. Read aloud together, pause to talk, and take your time.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards. Black-and-white printing is suitable.

Part 1

Zara and Teddy wanted to build a sandcastle near the water table. Zara filled a cup with dry sand and turned it over.

Part 2

The dry sand poured out like crumbs and made a flat pile. Zara patted it twice, but the pile would not hold the cup shape.

Part 3

Zara added a whole cup of water next. The sand became soupy, and her second tower slid into a shiny puddle.

Part 4

The two fallen towers made Zara sigh. She sat with Teddy, took a slow breath, and decided to change only a little at a time.

Part 5

Zara began with fresh dry sand and added one small spoonful of water. She squeezed it, and the sand stayed together in her hand.

Part 6

She packed the damp sand firmly into the cup, tapped the sides, and lifted the cup straight up. One strong tower remained.

Part 7

Zara used the same small-water method for two more towers. Then she joined all three with a low sand wall.

Part 8

Zara and Teddy admired the castle. Dry sand crumbled, too much water slumped, and slightly damp sand held its shape.

Draw, tell, or write

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.

My favorite part, and why I chose it

STORY QUIZ

Think about the story

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each question and all the choices. Circle one answer. A grown-up can read aloud; you can point or say your answer, too.

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1. What happened to the dry sand?

A. It made a firm tower	B. It slid into a watery puddle	C. It poured into a flat pile

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

2. What happened after Zara added a whole cup of water?

A. It stayed in a firm cup shape	B. The tower slid into a puddle	C. It made a dry flat pile

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

3. What did Zara do after two towers fell?

A. She breathed and changed a little at a time	B. She left Teddy behind	C. She added even more water

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

Questions 4 to 5

4. How much water helped the fresh sand hold together?

A. One full bucket	B. No water at all	C. One small spoonful

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

5. Which sand held its shape?

A. Very wet sand	B. Slightly damp sand	C. Loose dry sand

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

ANSWER GUIDE

For the grown-up

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Keep this page separate from the child's activity. Read directions aloud when helpful, and invite the child to explain their ideas.

1. C - It poured into a flat pile

It poured into a flat pile

2. B - The tower slid into a puddle

The tower slid into a puddle

3. A - She breathed and changed a little at a time

She breathed and changed a little at a time

4. C - One small spoonful

One small spoonful

5. B - Slightly damp sand

Slightly damp sand

Keep exploring

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.