

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ie (chief)

"This story focuses on the 'ie' sound as in 'shield.' Watch for words like 'shield,' 'chief,' and 'fierce' as you read!"



Why Shields Were Important in History

Long ago, people used shields to protect themselves in battle. A shield was strong and wide, used to block swords and arrows.

Each soldier learned how to hold a shield and stay safe. Some warriors could even wield a shield and a sword at the same time.

The chief of a village often had the finest shield. His shield showed special designs to remind people of his strength and bravery.

Shields were not just tools; they were signs of honor and fierce protection.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

shield

chief

fierce

wield

achieve



Name: _____

Why Shields Were Important in History

1. Why did people use shields in history?

- A. To protect themselves in battle
- B. To build houses
- C. To help find treasure
- D. To cook food

2. What did the chief's shield show?

- A. Bright colors for fun
- B. Special designs for strength and bravery
- C. A list of names
- D. A map of the land

3. Fill in the blank:

Some warriors could _____ a shield and a sword at the same time.

4. Why do you think shields became a sign of honor?

5. If you designed a shield, what symbols would you put on it and why?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Team 'ie' (as in "shield")

Genre: Nonfiction – History

High-Frequency Words: the, and, to, of, were

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're looking for 'ie' words that say the /ē/ sound, like in 'shield.'"
 2. Have you ever seen a picture of a knight or warrior with a shield?
 3. Why do you think people decorated their shields with special symbols?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids to try the long /ē/ sound for 'ie' words.
 2. Watch for 'ie' words and stretch the sounds carefully.
 3. Who had the finest shield in the village?
 4. Try reading the last sentence with a strong, brave voice!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell why shields were important in history?
 2. Why do you think the chief's shield was different from the others?
 3. If you were designing a shield today, what would it show about you?
 4. Skill mastery prompt: "Find and underline 5 'ie' words in the story!"
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you are a brave warrior sharing your story!
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Activity Idea

Draw your own shield design and explain what each symbol means. Use at least three 'ie' words in your description to share why your shield shows bravery or strength.

Coaching Tip

Remind readers that exploring history can be exciting, and learning new words makes the stories even more powerful!

