

Cawker City Ball of Twine

Tiny Cawker City, Kansas, is home to the world's largest ball of twine. It was dedicated to the city in 1961 by the creator of the ball, Frank Stoeber. Stoeber began his mission in 1953. After four years, his prodigious ball of twine grew to eight feet tall and weighed over 5,000 pounds.

Over time, Stoeber's ball became part of the Cawker City community. Throughout Cawker City, businesses honor the ball of twine with paintings and murals. Sidewalks in the town are painted with a twine stripe path that leads to the site of the world's largest twine ball. Even windows depict recreations of the story of Frank Stoeber and his ball of twine! Every year, Cawker City holds a "twine-a-thon" in August, where people can visit the giant ball and add their own twine to the creation. The ball continues to grow as each twine-a-thon is held, although there is twine ball competition in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Missouri. In September of 2013, the Cawker City ball of twine was reported to weigh almost twenty thousand pounds. It is one of the most popular attractions in all of Kansas.

- 1.) The ball of twine plays a _____ role in the Cawker City community.**
- a.) minor
 - b.) favorite
 - c.) general
 - d.) significant

2.) What does the word “prodigious” mean as used in the following sentence?

After four years, his prodigious ball of twine grew to eight feet tall and weighed over 5,000 pounds.

- a.) huge
- b.) important
- c.) visible
- d.) round

3.) What is the EFFECT of each twine-a-thon as stated in the passage?

- a.) More people learn about Cawker City
- b.) The legend of Frank Stoeber grows
- c.) the ball of twine increases in size
- d.) other cities and towns start their own balls of twine

4.) What question is NOT answered in the passage?

- a.) What is a twine-a-thon?
- b.) What did Frank Stoeber do for a living?
- c.) How does the community of Cawker City honor the great ball of twine?
- d.) How much did the ball of twine weigh in 2013?

5.) Which of the following is true?

- a.) There is competition for the world’s largest ball of twine in every state
- b.) Sidewalks in Cawker City are painted with a twine-striped path.
- c.) Each year, Cawker City holds its twine-a-thon in June
- d.) The ball of twine in Missouri grew larger than the Cawker City ball