The Tiny Museum

Notice how articles introduce objects and point back to them.

3.LF.36.a "Use articles a, an, and the correctly."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each a, an, and the in the passage. Draw an arrow from "the jar" and "the sock" to the words that first name each object.

Mara's Kitchen Museum

1. On Saturday, Mara set up a tiny museum on her kitchen table. She found a smooth stone in the yard and an empty jar in the cupboard. The stone had a white stripe that looked like a river. Mara placed the stone beside the jar, then wrote a small card for each object. Her brother wondered what else they could display.

2. Next, Mara found an old sock with a hole near the toe. She filled the sock with soft paper to make a puppet. An orange button became its nose, and a bit of yarn became its hair. Mara put the puppet near the stone. Her brother laughed at the funny face, but he said the museum needed one more surprise.

3. Mara went outside and heard a rustle under the porch. A small beetle was walking across a leaf. She did not bring the beetle inside. Instead, she drew the insect on a card and added it to the table. At last, Mara opened the museum for her family. Each card told where its object came from and why Mara had picked it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Mara write “a smooth stone” instead of “an smooth stone”?

2. After Mara first names the jar, which article does she use with jar? Why?

3. When Mara first names the sock, which article does she use? Why?

4. Mara writes “A small beetle” and later “the beetle.” Why do the articles change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are adding two objects to your own tiny museum. Write four sentences: name each object with a or an when it first appears, then use the when you mention it again.

ANSWER KEY

The Tiny Museum

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each a, an, and the in the passage. Draw an arrow from “the jar” and “the sock” to the words that first name each object. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Mara write “a smooth stone” instead of “an smooth stone”?	**Smooth starts with a consonant sound, so a is correct.**
2	After Mara first names the jar, which article does she use with jar? Why?	**She uses the because she is talking about the jar already named.**
3	When Mara first names the sock, which article does she use? Why?	**She uses an because old starts with a vowel sound.**
4	Mara writes “A small beetle” and later “the beetle.” Why do the articles change?	**A introduces the beetle. The points back to that same beetle.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I found a feather by the gate. The feather felt soft in my hand. I found an acorn under a tree. The acorn had a tiny cap.

Accept any four sentences that introduce two distinct objects with a or an and then refer to each object with the. Check the sound at the start of the word following a or an.