Secrets in the Pools

Use nearby clues to unlock new words.

4-5.R2 "Use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar spoken or written words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each bold word in the passage. Underline the nearby words that help you figure out what each bold word means.

A Visit at Low Tide

1. At low tide, the ocean begins to **recede**. Water that covered the rocks slowly moves away, leaving small pools behind. Maya stepped carefully across the wet sand to look inside one pool. A tiny crab slipped into a **crevice** between two rocks that nearly touched. Maya could see its claws, but its body was hidden in the narrow opening.

2. Maya almost missed a small fish resting near the sandy bottom. Its pale, speckled body seemed to match the sand. That **camouflage** made it hard to spot, even when Maya leaned closer. When her shadow crossed the pool, the fish darted beneath a stone. Maya kept her hands out of the water so she would not disturb the animals living there.

3. On a nearby rock, a sea snail held on through a rush of water. Another wave came, but the snail did not wash away. Its grip was **tenacious**, even as the waves pushed against it again and again. Maya watched until the tide began to rise. She headed back up the beach, leaving the snail and the other tide pool animals where she had found them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does **recede** mean? Which words nearby helped you decide?

2. What is a **crevice**? Which detail helped you figure it out?

3. What does **camouflage** mean here? Which details helped you decide?

4. What does **tenacious** tell you about the snail's grip? Which details support your answer?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a place or animal. In the first sentence, use a word that might be new to a classmate and give clues to its meaning. In the second, explain what the word means and name one clue.

ANSWER KEY

Secrets in the Pools

GRADE 4 · 4-5.R2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each bold word in the passage. Underline the nearby words that help you figure out what each bold word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does **recede** mean? Which words nearby helped you decide?	**It means to move back or away. The passage says the water that covered the rocks 'slowly moves away.'**
2	What is a **crevice**? Which detail helped you figure it out?	**It is a narrow opening or crack. The crab hides between rocks that nearly touch, and its body is hidden in the 'narrow opening.'**
3	What does **camouflage** mean here? Which details helped you decide?	**It means coloring or a pattern that makes an animal hard to see. The fish matches the sand and is hard for Maya to spot.**
4	What does **tenacious** tell you about the snail's grip? Which details support your answer?	**Its grip is strong and does not give way easily. The snail holds on and does not wash away when waves push against it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The garden soil was parched after weeks without rain, and it crumbled into dry dust. Parched means very dry, and the clue is that the soil crumbled into dry dust.

Accept equivalent meanings when students point to relevant clues in the passage. For the open task, check that the first sentence provides a usable context clue and the second explains both the word and a clue.