Roots That Protect

Study how a source-based paragraph explains a topic.

4.LF.36 "Write informative or explanatory text about a topic using sources, incorporating academic vocabulary, and including an introduction, facts, details with elaboration, and a conclusion."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that previews the two benefits of mangroves and the sentence that concludes the passage. Circle two academic words, then number the first sentence of paragraphs 2 and 3 to show the order of the main facts.

Mangroves at Work

1 At the edge of a warm coast, mangrove trees stand with roots that look like a tangle of stilts. These trees grow where salty water covers the ground at times. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), mangroves protect coastlines and provide places for young fish to live. Their unusual roots help explain how one kind of tree can support an entire coastal community.

2 First, mangrove roots slow moving water. NOAA explains that the roots trap sediment, or tiny pieces of sand and mud carried by water. As sediment collects, it can help build up the shore. The roots also reduce the force of waves against the land. This protection matters during storms, when strong waves can wash soil away and damage places near the coast.

3 Mangrove roots also create a nursery for sea life. The National Park Service reports that young fish and other animals find food and shelter among these roots. A small fish can hide there from larger animals while it grows. In conclusion, mangroves do more than grow beside the sea. By holding sediment and sheltering young animals, they help both the shore and the creatures that live there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence in paragraph 1 previews two benefits of mangroves? Write those benefits in your own words.

2. How does paragraph 2 explain the fact that mangrove roots protect the shore? Give two details.

3. Which source supports the claim that the roots are a nursery? What detail helps you picture how the nursery works?

4. How does the final sentence bring together the two main facts? Use the word *sediment* in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use these source notes to write one 5- to 6-sentence paragraph about bees: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) says bees carry pollen between flowers, helping plants make seeds; the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History says bees gather nectar for energy and pollen to feed their young. Introduce your topic, name both sources, explain the facts with details, use *pollen* and *nectar*, and end with a conclusion.

ANSWER KEY

Roots That Protect

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.36

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that previews the two benefits of mangroves and the sentence that concludes the passage. Circle two academic words, then number the first sentence of paragraphs 2 and 3 to show the order of the main facts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in paragraph 1 previews two benefits of mangroves? Write those benefits in your own words.	**The sentence beginning "According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration" previews them. Mangroves protect shores and give young fish places to live.**
2	How does paragraph 2 explain the fact that mangrove roots protect the shore? Give two details.	**The roots trap sediment that can build up the shore, and they reduce the force of waves against the land.**
3	Which source supports the claim that the roots are a nursery? What detail helps you picture how the nursery works?	**The National Park Service supports the claim. The detail about a small fish hiding from larger animals shows how the roots provide shelter.**
4	How does the final sentence bring together the two main facts? Use the word *sediment* in your answer.	**It brings together the facts that mangroves hold sediment along the shore and shelter young animals.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bees help flowering plants and gather food as they visit flowers. The USDA explains that bees move pollen from one flower to another, which helps plants make seeds. Pollen can stick to a bee's body and reach the next flower it visits. The Smithsonian reports that bees gather nectar for energy and pollen to feed their young. Nectar gives bees fuel for their trips between flowers. In conclusion, bees' flower visits help plants make seeds while providing food for bees and their young.

For the marking task, accept academic words such as sediment, coastlines, and nursery. For the paragraph, accept accurate elaboration beyond the source notes if it supports the facts.