Creek Clue Hunt

Use nearby details to unlock unfamiliar words.

6-8.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 and underline nearby clues that help you work out what it means.

The Creek After the Storm

1 After a hard rain, Maya visited the creek behind her school. Usually she could see pebbles on the bottom. Today the water was **turbid**; brown swirls hid the stones, and even a leaf just below the surface was hard to spot. Maya noticed water racing down the paved parking lot. A shallow ditch helped **divert** some of that flow toward a garden instead of letting it rush straight into the creek. She wondered if the garden could change what reached the water.

2 The garden sat in a low patch of ground filled with plants and loose soil. Maya poured a cup of water on the soil and watched it disappear below the surface. Unlike the parking lot, the soil was **permeable**; water could pass through it rather than sliding across it. During a storm, this planted basin holds runoff for a while. Its roots also help keep the soil in place. Maya spotted a worm near the edge and carefully stepped around it.

3 At the ditch's entrance, Maya found **sediment** caught among the grass: tiny grains of sand and bits of soil that rain had carried from the parking lot. Some particles had settled there when the moving water slowed. Maya scooped a little into a clear jar, then added creek water. After a few minutes, the heavier grains sank, but the water still looked cloudy. She wrote down what she saw so her class could compare the creek after the next storm.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does **turbid** mean? Give a clue from the passage that supports your answer.

2. What does **divert** mean? Which detail helps you figure it out?

3. What does **permeable** mean? Use a detail about the soil in your answer.

4. What is **sediment**? Name a clue in the passage that shows its meaning.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a problem on a school trip. Use a word that might be unfamiliar to a reader, then add two nearby clues that show what it means without stating a definition. Underline both clues.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Clue Hunt

GRADE 6 · 6-8.R2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each bold word and underline nearby clues that help you work out what it means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does **turbid** mean? Give a clue from the passage that supports your answer.	**Turbid means cloudy or muddy. Brown swirls hid the stones, and Maya could barely see a leaf below the surface.**
2	What does **divert** mean? Which detail helps you figure it out?	**Divert means to send in a different direction. The ditch sent some water toward the garden instead of straight into the creek.**
3	What does **permeable** mean? Use a detail about the soil in your answer.	**Permeable means allowing water to pass through. Maya watched the water disappear below the soil's surface.**
4	What is **sediment**? Name a clue in the passage that shows its meaning.	**Sediment is small pieces of material carried by water. The passage describes tiny grains of sand and bits of soil carried by rain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On our school trip, the rain broke our tent pole. We built a makeshift support with two sticks and a shoelace. It held up the roof until our teacher found a spare pole.

Accept equivalent meanings supported by details from the passage. For Your Turn, look for three sentences, an unfamiliar word, and two underlined clues that help a reader infer its meaning.