

Word Detective Report

Use context and reliable sources to unlock important terms.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6 "Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word that is defined or explained by nearby context. Number the words or phrases that give you a clue to each word's meaning.

A Rain Garden at Work

- ① After heavy rain, water once rushed from the parking lots near Maple Creek into the stream. The fast flow carried oil, soil, and litter. To mitigate, or reduce, this pollution, the city built a rain garden beside the lots. Its deep-rooted plants slow the water before it reaches the creek. Engineers expected the garden to improve infiltration, the movement of water into the ground, and lessen flooding downstream along its banks.
- ② At first, some residents did not understand why the garden was filled with mulch and native grasses instead of flowers in neat rows. A project sign explained that mulch protects the soil, while native plants have roots suited to local weather. The sign also used the domain-specific term turbidity. It defined turbidity as cloudiness in water caused by tiny floating particles. Lower turbidity helps sunlight reach underwater plants and can support a healthier stream ecosystem.
- ③ When reading the project report, Jordan paused at the word resilient. The sentence said that a resilient rain garden can recover after a drought or a major storm. Jordan first used this context to infer that resilient meant able to return to a healthy condition. Then Jordan checked a reliable dictionary and compared the definition with the sentence. This two-step process prevented Jordan from choosing a meaning that did not fit the report's purpose and context.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which words in paragraph 1 explain the meaning of mitigate?

2 What does infiltration mean in the passage?

3 What is turbidity, and why is it important to the stream ecosystem?

4 What two steps did Jordan use to determine the meaning of resilient?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an important academic or domain-specific word from another class text that you do not know well. Write the word, its sentence, your context-based inference, a reliable source you would check, and your revised meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each word that is defined or explained by nearby context. Number the words or phrases that give you a clue to each word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words in paragraph 1 explain the meaning of mitigate?	"or reduce, this pollution"
2	What does infiltration mean in the passage?	The movement of water into the ground.
3	What is turbidity, and why is it important to the stream ecosystem?	Turbidity is cloudiness in water caused by tiny floating particles. Lower turbidity helps sunlight reach underwater plants and can support a healthier ecosystem.
4	What two steps did Jordan use to determine the meaning of resilient?	Jordan used context to infer a meaning, then checked a reliable dictionary and compared its definition with the sentence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Word: photosynthesis. Sentence: "During photosynthesis, plants use light energy to make sugars."

Inference: It is the process plants use sunlight to make food. Source: a biology textbook glossary. Revised meaning: Photosynthesis is the process in which plants and some other organisms use light energy to make sugars from carbon dioxide and water.

Accept equivalent meanings supported by the passage. For the open task, accept a reasonable context inference and a revised meaning that matches a reliable dictionary, glossary, textbook, or trusted reference source.