

Pond Word Detectives

Use reference tools to choose exact word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4d "Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the four words Maya looks up. Circle the name of the reference tool she uses for each word so you can see how she finds the best meaning.

Maya's Pond Notes

- ① During a class visit to the pond, Maya saw a dragonfly rest on a reed. Its long body looked bright blue in the sun. She wanted to describe the insect correctly in her nature notes. Maya knew that guessing from a picture could lead to a mistake, so she opened the glossary in the back of the class field guide.
- ② The glossary said a dragonfly is an insect with two pairs of wings and large eyes. Maya also looked up reed, a tall grasslike plant that often grows in wet ground. The word habitat was nearby in the glossary. It meant the natural home of a plant or animal. Now Maya could write that the dragonfly rested in its pond habitat.
- ③ Later, Maya watched the dragonfly hover above the water. A digital beginning dictionary gave two meanings for hover: to stay in one place in the air, or to wait nearby. She chose the first meaning because the insect was flying above the water. Maya did not choose a meaning just because it was first. She matched the definition to the sentence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does the glossary say dragonfly means?

2 Maya looks up reed in a glossary. What is a reed?

3 What does habitat mean in Maya's pond notes?

4 Which meaning of hover does Maya choose, and what clue helps her choose it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write one sentence about an animal or place using a key word. Look up the word in a print or digital dictionary, then write the definition you chose and explain how it fits your sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the four words Maya looks up. Circle the name of the reference tool she uses for each word so you can see how she finds the best meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the glossary say dragonfly means?	An insect with two pairs of wings and large eyes.
2	Maya looks up reed in a glossary. What is a reed?	A tall grasslike plant that often grows in wet ground.
3	What does habitat mean in Maya's pond notes?	The natural home of a plant or animal.
4	Which meaning of hover does Maya choose, and what clue helps her choose it?	To stay in one place in the air. The dragonfly was flying above the water.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sentence: Most bats are nocturnal animals. Dictionary definition: Nocturnal means active at night. This fits because bats usually fly and find food at night.

Accept accurate dictionary definitions stated in the student's own words. The explanation should connect the chosen definition to the student's sentence, not simply name the reference tool.