Marsh Word Detectives

Notice words that connect details in a model text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1a "Use relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that) and relative adverbs (where, when, why)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each relative pronoun: who, whose, whom, which, and that. Circle each relative adverb: where, when, and why, to see how these words connect details to nouns, places, times, or reasons.

A Visit to the Marsh

1. On Saturday, Maya visited the Riverbend Nature Center, which sits beside a marsh. A guide named Mr. Ortiz showed visitors a pond where frogs laid eggs in spring. He pointed to a tiny tree frog that rested on a reed. Maya watched the frog, whose bright green skin helped it blend with leaves. She wrote notes about each animal she saw.

2. Mr. Ortiz introduced Maya to Dr. Lin, who studies local wetlands. Dr. Lin explained that wetlands clean water by trapping soil and slowing floods. She described a day when heavy rain filled the marsh. The center records water levels after storms. Dr. Lin explained the reason why this information helps scientists track changes in the marsh. Maya thanked Dr. Lin, whom she hoped to meet again during a future visit.

3. Before leaving, Maya visited a display about beavers, which build dams from branches and mud. The display showed a lodge, where a beaver family can rest and raise young. Maya learned that dams create ponds that offer homes for many animals. She understood the reason why the center protects the marsh. It is a place that helps people study nature and protect water.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what relative pronoun introduces the detail about the frog's bright green skin?

2. In paragraph 1, what place does the relative adverb where refer to?

3. Complete this sentence with the exact relative pronoun from paragraph 2: "Dr. Lin, ___ studies local wetlands."

4. Complete this phrase with the exact relative adverb from paragraph 3: "the reason ___ the center protects the marsh."

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences describing a place you know. Use at least one relative pronoun and at least one relative adverb.

ANSWER KEY

Marsh Word Detectives

GRADE 4 · L.4.1a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each relative pronoun: who, whose, whom, which, and that. Circle each relative adverb: where, when, and why, to see how these words connect details to nouns, places, times, or reasons. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what relative pronoun introduces the detail about the frog's bright green skin?	**whose**
2	In paragraph 1, what place does the relative adverb where refer to?	**the pond**
3	Complete this sentence with the exact relative pronoun from paragraph 2: "Dr. Lin, ___ studies local wetlands."	**who**
4	Complete this phrase with the exact relative adverb from paragraph 3: "the reason ___ the center protects the marsh."	**why**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library is a place where I read after school. Mr. Chen, who works at the desk, helps me find books. It is a quiet room that gives me time to think.

Accept correct relative pronouns or relative adverbs that clearly connect a detail to a noun, place, time, or reason. Student responses may use different places and sentence ideas if they include three complete sentences and both required word types.