

Words That Work

Notice details that make a scene clear.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3a "Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.*"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six words or phrases that give an exact picture of an action, object, or change. In the margin, number the three choices that make the scene clearest to you.

At Willow Creek

- ① On Tuesday morning, Maya joined a park ranger beside Willow Creek. The ranger pointed to a beaver dam made of branches, mud, and stones. Water pooled behind the dam, forming a quiet pond. Maya saw a brown beaver paddle across the pond. Its flat tail slapped the water, sending small rings toward the grassy bank.
- ② By noon, dark clouds covered the sky, and a light rain began. The beaver carried a twig in its teeth and tucked it into a gap near the dam. As the rain fell faster, the pond rose slowly. The dam did not stop all water, but it held back enough water to make a deeper pool for the beaver's home.
- ③ When the rain stopped, Maya noticed fresh mud along the dam. The beaver had pressed the mud between loose sticks, sealing the narrow gap. A kingfisher flashed blue above the pond and dived for a fish. Maya wrote, "The beaver did not simply build a dam. It repaired a leak and changed the pond's water level."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which word in paragraph 1 most precisely tells how the beaver moved across the pond?

2 The text could say, "The tail moved the water." Which phrase in paragraph 1 gives a more exact picture of what happened?

3 Which two words in paragraph 2 show that the rain and the pond changed at different speeds?

4 Which sentence in paragraph 3 is more precise than saying, "The beaver fixed the dam"?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal changing its habitat. Use at least three precise words or phrases that show exactly what the animal does or what changes.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline six words or phrases that give an exact picture of an action, object, or change. In the margin, number the three choices that make the scene clearest to you. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word in paragraph 1 most precisely tells how the beaver moved across the pond?	paddle
2	The text could say, "The tail moved the water." Which phrase in paragraph 1 gives a more exact picture of what happened?	Its flat tail slapped the water, sending small rings toward the grassy bank.
3	Which two words in paragraph 2 show that the rain and the pond changed at different speeds?	faster and slowly
4	Which sentence in paragraph 3 is more precise than saying, "The beaver fixed the dam"?	It repaired a leak and changed the pond's water level.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A prairie dog clawed a narrow tunnel beneath dry grass. It pushed loose soil into a small mound beside the entrance and sheltered its family underground.

Accept answers that quote the passage or accurately identify the key precise words and phrases. For Part 3, accept two sentences with at least three specific, clear word choices about an animal and its habitat.