

Word Detective Notes

Use reference clues to clarify words in an animal article.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4c "Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three words Maya looks up. Circle the reference source that helps her with each word so you can see which source gives pronunciation or a precise meaning.

Bats After Dark

- ① At dusk, Maya watched little brown bats leave a barn near her town. Her field guide called them nocturnal, meaning active at night. Maya was not sure how to say nocturnal, so she checked a dictionary. It showed the pronunciation, "nok-TUR-nul," and listed the word as an adjective. The guide helped her understand the sentence more precisely.
- ② Later, Maya read that bats return to a roost, a place where they rest or sleep. The field guide's glossary defined roost for animal homes, while a dictionary gave several meanings for the same word. Maya chose the glossary because the article was about animals. She learned that a roost can be a cave, tree, or building where bats gather.
- ③ One section described echolocation, the way bats use sounds and echoes to locate objects. Maya checked a digital dictionary to hear "ek-oh-loh-KAY-shun" and read its definition. The entry explained that an echo is a sound heard again after it bounces back. Maya did not use a thesaurus because she needed the science meaning and pronunciation, not a replacement word.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Which reference material did Maya use to find the pronunciation of nocturnal? What pronunciation did it give?

- 2 Why did Maya choose the glossary to clarify roost instead of the dictionary?

- 3 What does the digital dictionary say echolocation is?

- 4 If Maya wanted a replacement word for active, which reference material should she use? Explain your choice using the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a science or social studies word that you are unsure how to say or define. Consult a print or digital dictionary or glossary, then write two sentences that name the word and source, give its pronunciation, and explain its precise meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three words Maya looks up. Circle the reference source that helps her with each word so you can see which source gives pronunciation or a precise meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which reference material did Maya use to find the pronunciation of nocturnal? What pronunciation did it give?	She used a dictionary. It gave "nok-TUR-nul."
2	Why did Maya choose the glossary to clarify roost instead of the dictionary?	The glossary gave the meaning of roost for animal homes, which matched the article about bats. The dictionary gave several meanings.
3	What does the digital dictionary say echolocation is?	It is the way bats use sounds and echoes to locate objects.
4	If Maya wanted a replacement word for active, which reference material should she use? Explain your choice using the passage.	She should use a thesaurus because a thesaurus provides replacement words.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I looked up erosion in a digital dictionary, which gave the pronunciation "ih-ROH-zhun." It defined erosion as the process in which wind, water, ice, or gravity moves rock and soil from one place to another.

Accept equivalent pronunciation respellings that clearly match the words in the passage. For the open task, accept any accurate word, named reference source, pronunciation, and precise meaning written in two sentences.