

Sentence Sea Change

Revise sentence length and structure for clear, interesting writing.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.3a "Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that combine two related ideas. In each paragraph, circle one detail that could be removed without changing the main idea, then number your circles 1, 2, and 3.

Sea Otters and Kelp Forests

- ① Sea otters float in kelp forests along the Pacific coast. They wrap themselves in kelp before sleeping, so waves do not carry them away. An otter has thick fur, not a thick layer of blubber. Its fur traps air close to the skin and helps the animal stay warm in cold water. Otters also use rocks to crack open hard-shelled prey.
- ② Otters eat sea urchins. The urchins eat kelp. When otters keep urchin numbers lower, more kelp can grow. This chain matters because kelp forests give many animals food and shelter. A crowded group of otters is called a raft. Rafts may hold a few animals or more than one hundred, depending on the place and season.
- ③ Scientists monitor sea otters by watching the water from boats or shore. They count animals. They record where the animals rest and feed. The notes can show changes over time. For example, fewer otters in one area may lead scientists to look for possible causes, such as disease, food changes, or harmful spills. Careful records help people protect coastal ecosystems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 In paragraph 1, copy the sentence that combines an otter action with a reason for that action.

- 2 Paragraph 2 begins with two short sentences. Combine them into one sentence that keeps both facts.

- 3 In paragraph 3, reduce the first sentence by removing details but keeping its main idea. Write one possible shorter sentence.

- 4 In paragraph 3, combine "They count animals." with the sentence after it to make the writing flow more smoothly.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write three sentences about a place you know. Combine two related ideas in one sentence, and make another sentence shorter by crossing out one extra detail. Underline your combined sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that combine two related ideas. In each paragraph, circle one detail that could be removed without changing the main idea, then number your circles 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, copy the sentence that combines an otter action with a reason for that action.	They wrap themselves in kelp before sleeping, so waves do not carry them away.
2	Paragraph 2 begins with two short sentences. Combine them into one sentence that keeps both facts.	Sea otters eat sea urchins, which eat kelp.
3	In paragraph 3, reduce the first sentence by removing details but keeping its main idea. Write one possible shorter sentence.	Scientists monitor sea otters.
4	In paragraph 3, combine “They count animals.” with the sentence after it to make the writing flow more smoothly.	They count animals and record where the animals rest and feed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The playground has swings, a slide, and ~~bright red~~ benches. <u>Children race to the slide and climb the ladder.</u> I hear laughter at recess.

Accept different combined or reduced sentences when they keep the passage facts and are grammatically clear. For the open task, accept any three-sentence response with one underlined combined sentence and one crossed-out nonessential detail.