# Rover Sentence Routes

Notice how sentence openings, lengths, and types shape a model text.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.3a** "Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the first three words of every sentence. Circle each question and each sentence with five or fewer words to see how the writer changes sentence patterns.

### Rover at the Ridge

1 Before sunrise, the Desert Research Station is already busy. Technicians check weather sensors, pack water, and study maps of the dry basin. Outside the lab, a small rover waits beside a trail of pale stones. Its wheels are dusty, but its cameras are clear. What will the rover find beyond the ridge? At 6:00 a.m., the team sends it forward. Slowly, it climbs toward the rocks. A faint motor hum follows it. Then silence.

2 Because the basin has little shade, heat can rise quickly after morning. The rover measures ground temperature every minute and sends the numbers to a tablet inside the lab. On the screen, colored dots form a map of warm and cool places. Red marks the hottest ground. Blue marks the coolest. Near a narrow wash, the team notices a cooler strip. Could buried moisture be changing the soil there? To investigate, the rover stops, lowers a probe, and records another set of readings carefully.

3 By noon, the ridge casts a thin shadow across the trail. The rover returns with a new map and a small soil sample. First, the technicians compare the sample with soil from the hotter ground. Next, they test how much water the soil can hold. Their results may explain the cool strip. The team will need more evidence, however. If later tests match today's readings, the station may plan a longer study. For now, the rover rests under a cover while the desert wind moves sand across its tracks.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the question in paragraph 1. How does using a question change the reader's interest at that point?

2. In paragraph 2, copy the two short sentences that name colors. Why might the writer use two separate short sentences instead of one longer sentence?

3. Which two sentences in paragraph 3 begin with words that show sequence? What do those openings help the reader understand?

4. Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that begins with "If." What idea does this sentence pattern add?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about a field investigation. Use four different sentence patterns: begin one sentence with a time or place phrase, one with an -ly word, one as a question, and one with "If."

**ANSWER KEY**

# Rover Sentence Routes

**GRADE 6 · L.6.3a**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first three words of every sentence. Circle each question and each sentence with five or fewer words to see how the writer changes sentence patterns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Copy the question in paragraph 1. How does using a question change the reader's interest at that point? | **"What will the rover find beyond the ridge?" It creates curiosity about what the rover will discover.** |
| 2 | In paragraph 2, copy the two short sentences that name colors. Why might the writer use two separate short sentences instead of one longer sentence? | **"Red marks the hottest ground. Blue marks the coolest." The matching short sentences make the red-blue contrast clear and noticeable.** |
| 3 | Which two sentences in paragraph 3 begin with words that show sequence? What do those openings help the reader understand? | **"First, the technicians compare the sample with soil from the hotter ground." and "Next, they test how much water the soil can hold." The openings show the order of the team's actions.** |
| 4 | Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that begins with "If." What idea does this sentence pattern add? | **"If later tests match today's readings, the station may plan a longer study." It shows that the longer study depends on the later test results.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the riverbank, Maya filled a clear jar with water. Carefully, she placed the jar beside her test kit. Why did tiny insects gather near the reeds? If the water stayed cool, Maya would return at sunset to test it again.

Accept answers that accurately identify the passage sentences and explain a reasonable effect of the pattern. For the open task, check for exactly four complete sentences with all four required openings or sentence types.