Word Family Fieldwork

Trace how word forms signal meaning and grammar.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.4b "Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each set of related words that shares a base, then circle the ending or changed form in each word. Use your marks to decide whether each form names an action, a thing or process, or a description.

Kelp Forest Detectives

1. On the coast of Chile, marine biologists explore kelp forests, underwater habitats built by large brown algae. Their exploration begins at low tide, when they can measure holdfasts, the rootlike structures that anchor kelp to rocks. During an exploratory dive, a student photographs sea stars, fish, and drifting strands. Later, the group compares photographs with maps from earlier trips. Their careful records help them notice where the forest grows thickest and which animals shelter beneath its blades. At sunset, they return to shore with salt on their boots.

2. A nearby coastal reserve preserves sections of the forest from heavy harvesting. This preservation gives scientists a place to compare protected kelp with areas used by fishing boats. Rangers also preserve water samples in chilled containers, so later tests can reveal nutrient levels. The reserve's preservation plan includes limits on collecting kelp and rules for boat anchors. These choices matter because broken kelp can no longer provide the same shelter. By comparing sites over several years, researchers can report whether preservation supports more stable habitat conditions.

3. Back in the lab, the class begins to analyze the maps, water tests, and photographs. Their analysis focuses on one question: do thicker kelp beds appear where fewer anchors are dropped? An analytical chart organizes observations by site and date. Students must separate a pattern from a guess, since one unusual day cannot prove a long-term change. After they analyze all the records, they write a short report for the reserve staff. The report may guide future decisions about boating routes, sample collection, and the protection of kelp forests.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what part of speech is exploration, and which related word in the paragraph names an action?

2. In paragraph 2, preserves means protects. What part of speech is preserves, and what noun from the same word family names the act or plan of protecting?

3. In paragraph 3, match each word to its job: analyze, analysis, and analytical. Which names an action, which names the process of studying information, and which describes the chart?

4. What clue in paragraph 3 shows that analytical is an adjective rather than a noun or verb?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a base word that does not appear in the passage. Write exactly two sentences that correctly use a verb, a noun, and an adjective from that word family.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · L.9-10.4b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each set of related words that shares a base, then circle the ending or changed form in each word. Use your marks to decide whether each form names an action, a thing or process, or a description. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what part of speech is exploration, and which related word in the paragraph names an action?	**Exploration is a noun. Explore names an action and is a verb.**
2	In paragraph 2, preserves means protects. What part of speech is preserves, and what noun from the same word family names the act or plan of protecting?	**Preserves is a verb. Preservation is the noun.**
3	In paragraph 3, match each word to its job: analyze, analysis, and analytical. Which names an action, which names the process of studying information, and which describes the chart?	**Analyze names an action. Analysis names the process of studying information. Analytical describes the chart.**
4	What clue in paragraph 3 shows that analytical is an adjective rather than a noun or verb?	**It comes before chart and tells what kind of chart it is.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The museum will create a tide-pool display for visitors. Its creation requires a creative team to plan labels and tanks.

Accept responses that use three clearly related forms correctly in exactly two sentences. The verb should show an action, the noun should name a thing, idea, or process, and the adjective should describe a noun.