Clue Hunt

Use nearby words to check a word that seems tricky.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4c "Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words whose meanings you had to confirm. Circle the nearby words that helped you figure out each word, and reread the full sentence before you mark.

Life Between Tides

1. At low tide, Maya walked across the rocky shore with her class. Small pools of seawater remained between the stones. In one pool, a sea star clung to a boulder. Its tube feet held it in place while waves splashed nearby. Maya stepped carefully because the rocks were slick, or slippery, with water and algae.

2. Near another pool, Maya noticed a crab hiding under a flat stone. The crab was camouflaged, so its brown shell blended with the sand and pebbles. When Maya leaned closer, it scuttled sideways into a narrow crack. She reread the sign beside the pool, which explained that crabs often hide to avoid birds and other predators.

3. Before leaving, the class measured the pools with rulers and wrote notes. Their teacher said the habitat was fragile, meaning it could be harmed easily. Maya gently returned a loose shell to the sand instead of taking it home. She understood that careful visitors help protect the animals that depend on the shore for food and shelter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Reread the sentence with the word "slick." What does "slick" mean, and which nearby word confirms its meaning?

2. What does "camouflaged" mean in the crab paragraph? Use the details about the crab's shell in your answer.

3. Reread the sentence with "scuttled." What does "scuttled" mean here? Which word in the sentence helps you confirm it?

4. What does "fragile" mean? What words in the paragraph help you self-correct or confirm your thinking?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a shore animal. Use one challenging word, then add context clues that help a reader figure out what the word means without directly defining it.

ANSWER KEY

Clue Hunt

GRADE 4 · RF.4.4c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words whose meanings you had to confirm. Circle the nearby words that helped you figure out each word, and reread the full sentence before you mark. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Reread the sentence with the word "slick." What does "slick" mean, and which nearby word confirms its meaning?	**Slick means slippery. The word "slippery" confirms it.**
2	What does "camouflaged" mean in the crab paragraph? Use the details about the crab's shell in your answer.	**Camouflaged means hidden by blending in. The crab's brown shell blended with the sand and pebbles.**
3	Reread the sentence with "scuttled." What does "scuttled" mean here? Which word in the sentence helps you confirm it?	**Scuttled means moved sideways. The word "sideways" confirms it.**
4	What does "fragile" mean? What words in the paragraph help you self-correct or confirm your thinking?	**Fragile means easily harmed or damaged. The words "could be harmed easily" confirm it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A hermit crab searched the sand for a vacant shell after it outgrew its old home. It crawled into the empty shell and pulled its soft body inside.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by nearby words in the passage. For Your Turn, accept two sentences with a challenging word and clear context clues that reveal its meaning without a direct definition.