Word Clue Hunters

Use nearby details to figure out unfamiliar words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4 "Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words migrate, estimate, habitat, and replace. Number one or two nearby details that help you figure out each word's meaning.

Monarchs on the Move

1. Each fall, monarch butterflies migrate from Canada and the United States to mountain forests in central Mexico. The trip may stretch more than 2,000 miles. A monarch cannot make this journey in one day, so it stops at patches of flowers for nectar. Cold weather and fewer flowers signal that it is time to leave northern places.

2. At a school garden, students count each monarch that lands on milkweed or a flower. They write the numbers on a chart every Friday, during the same hour. Scientists combine counts from many gardens to estimate the size of a monarch population. They cannot visit every field or forest where monarchs fly, so the charts help them make a careful estimate.

3. To protect a monarch habitat, volunteers plant native milkweed and flowering plants. Caterpillars eat milkweed leaves, while adult butterflies drink nectar from flowers. In some places, new roads and buildings replace these plants. After a parking lot covered one field, volunteers found fewer caterpillars there the next spring. They chose an empty corner near the school for a new garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does migrate mean in paragraph 1? Which details help you determine its meaning?

2. What does estimate mean in paragraph 2? Use details from the paragraph to explain.

3. What does habitat mean in paragraph 3? What details help you figure it out?

4. What does replace mean in paragraph 3? What happens when roads and buildings replace the plants?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a different animal or place. Use one word from this list in each sentence: migrate, estimate, habitat, replace. Include context clues that show what each word means.

ANSWER KEY

Word Clue Hunters

GRADE 4 · RI.4.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words migrate, estimate, habitat, and replace. Number one or two nearby details that help you figure out each word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does migrate mean in paragraph 1? Which details help you determine its meaning?	**Migrate means to travel from one region to another at a certain time of year. Monarchs leave northern places in fall and travel to forests in Mexico.**
2	What does estimate mean in paragraph 2? Use details from the paragraph to explain.	**Estimate means to make a careful guess using information. Scientists use counts from many gardens because they cannot visit every place monarchs fly.**
3	What does habitat mean in paragraph 3? What details help you figure it out?	**Habitat means the place where an organism lives and gets what it needs. Monarchs use areas with milkweed, flowers, nectar, and places for caterpillars.**
4	What does replace mean in paragraph 3? What happens when roads and buildings replace the plants?	**Replace means to take the place of something else. Roads and buildings take over places where the plants had been growing.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya counted frogs along one bank and used that number to estimate how many lived in the whole pond. When builders filled the pond with gravel, the frogs lost the wet habitat with reeds for hiding and insects to eat.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by nearby passage details, even if students use different wording. For Part 3, accept two sentences that use two listed words correctly and include clues to each word's meaning.