Wetland Sentence Jobs

Trace how sentences build an informational paragraph.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.5 "Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline the sentence that states the paragraph's key idea. In the margin, label the job of every other sentence, such as set context, define, explain, give a detail, connect, or limit an idea.

Why Wetlands Matter

1. Before many cities built storm drains, wetlands slowed rainwater naturally. A wetland is land where water covers the soil for part or all of the year. Its grasses, reeds, and muddy ground act like a sponge during a storm. Instead of racing straight into a river, some water spreads across the wetland and seeps into the soil. This slowing effect can reduce flooding downstream. However, wetlands cannot stop every flood, especially when rain falls faster than the ground can absorb it.

2. Wetlands also improve water quality, but their role depends on what enters them. As water moves slowly through wetland plants and soil, some particles settle out. Plant roots and tiny organisms can take up or change certain pollutants before the water reaches a stream. This process does not make all polluted water safe to drink. Instead, it shows why protecting a wetland can help a whole watershed, the land area that drains to one body of water. A damaged wetland may lose some of these filtering abilities.

3. Because wetlands provide several services, communities sometimes restore ones that have been drained or filled. Restoration crews may remove barriers that block water, reshape channels, or plant native vegetation. These actions aim to bring back conditions that support wetland functions, rather than creating a perfect copy of the past. The earlier examples of slowing water and filtering it explain the purpose of this work. Still, restoration takes time, and results vary with rainfall, soil, and the surrounding land. A restored wetland is one tool among many for managing water.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In Paragraph 1, what job does the second sentence do? Explain how it helps develop the paragraph's key idea.

2. How does the sentence beginning "Instead of racing straight into a river" develop the idea in Paragraph 1?

3. In Paragraph 2, why does the author include the sentence "This process does not make all polluted water safe to drink"?

4. How do the fourth, fifth, and sixth sentences of Paragraph 3 work together to shape the paragraph's conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one paragraph from the passage and write a four-sentence structural map. Identify its key idea, explain the jobs of two particular sentences, and explain how the final sentence develops, connects, or limits the idea.

ANSWER KEY

Wetland Sentence Jobs

GRADE 8 · RI.8.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline the sentence that states the paragraph's key idea. In the margin, label the job of every other sentence, such as set context, define, explain, give a detail, connect, or limit an idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In Paragraph 1, what job does the second sentence do? Explain how it helps develop the paragraph's key idea.	**It defines a wetland, giving readers the information needed to understand how wetlands slow rainwater.**
2	How does the sentence beginning "Instead of racing straight into a river" develop the idea in Paragraph 1?	**It explains the process of slowing water by contrasting fast runoff with water spreading across the wetland and seeping into soil.**
3	In Paragraph 2, why does the author include the sentence "This process does not make all polluted water safe to drink"?	**It limits the previous explanation so readers do not assume that wetlands remove all pollution or make water safe to drink.**
4	How do the fourth, fifth, and sixth sentences of Paragraph 3 work together to shape the paragraph's conclusion?	**The fourth sentence connects restoration to wetlands' earlier-described functions, the fifth adds limits and conditions, and the sixth concludes that restoration is only one water-management tool.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Paragraph 3 develops the idea that restoring wetlands can support useful water-related functions. Its second sentence gives concrete examples of actions restoration crews may take. Its fourth sentence connects those actions to the earlier discussion of slowing and filtering water. The final sentence limits the idea by explaining that restoration is only one water-management tool.

Accept accurate structural maps that name a paragraph key idea and explain the roles of two specific sentences plus the final sentence. Students may use different wording for sentence jobs if their explanations are supported by the passage.