Pond Bird Details

Use facts, definitions, and examples to build an explanation.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2b "Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle one definition. Underline six facts or examples that explain how the birds live in the wetland, because these details develop an informational topic.

Two Birds, One Pond

1. At the edge of a pond, ducks and great blue herons use the same wetland in different ways. A wetland is land that stays covered or soaked with water for much of the year. Ducks often dabble, or tip forward to reach food near the surface. They eat seeds, water plants, insects, and small animals. Their broad, flat bills help them strain tiny food pieces from water.

2. Great blue herons hunt in the shallow water or stand still along the shore. Their long legs keep much of their bodies above the water, while their long necks and sharp bills help them catch prey. Fish, frogs, crayfish, and insects are common foods for herons. A heron may wait quietly, then strike its bill forward quickly when a fish swims close.

3. These details show why one pond can support several kinds of birds. Ducks use their bills to collect food near the surface, while herons use sharp bills to catch moving prey. Both birds may eat insects, but ducks also eat water plants and seeds. When writers explain a topic, specific facts, definitions, and examples help readers picture how animals live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the sentence that defines the word wetland.

2. What two body-part details explain how a great blue heron can hunt in water?

3. How does the sentence beginning “Both birds may eat insects” add a useful detail to the explanation?

4. Give two examples of duck food from the passage. Then explain how duck food differs from heron food.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence informational paragraph explaining how ducks and great blue herons find food in the same wetland. Include a definition of wetland, at least two specific food examples, and a contrast word such as but, while, or however.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · W.5.2b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle one definition. Underline six facts or examples that explain how the birds live in the wetland, because these details develop an informational topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the sentence that defines the word wetland.	**A wetland is land that stays covered or soaked with water for much of the year.**
2	What two body-part details explain how a great blue heron can hunt in water?	**Its long legs keep much of its body above water, and its long neck and sharp bill help it catch prey.**
3	How does the sentence beginning "Both birds may eat insects" add a useful detail to the explanation?	**It shows a similarity between ducks and herons, then explains that ducks also eat water plants and seeds.**
4	Give two examples of duck food from the passage. Then explain how duck food differs from heron food.	**Possible answers: Ducks eat seeds and water plants. Herons commonly eat fish, frogs, crayfish, and insects, while ducks also eat plants and seeds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A wetland is land that stays covered or soaked with water for much of the year. Ducks tip forward near the surface to eat seeds and water plants. However, great blue herons stand in shallow water and use sharp bills to catch fish.

Accept equivalent wording when students identify accurate facts, definitions, and examples from the passage. For Part 3, check for exactly three sentences, a wetland definition, two food examples, and a clear contrast between the birds.