

Clean Water Words

Notice how specific vocabulary explains a treatment process.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2d "Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least six precise or domain-specific words or phrases that explain how wastewater is cleaned. These words make the process clear and exact.

How Wastewater Is Treated

- ① Water from sinks, toilets, and drains travels through sewer pipes to a wastewater treatment plant. At the plant, a screen catches large trash, such as wipes and plastic pieces. In a grit chamber, heavy sand and small stones settle to the bottom. Workers remove these materials so they do not damage pumps or clog later equipment.
- ② Next, water enters an aeration tank. Machines add air, and tiny organisms use oxygen to break down dissolved waste. This biological treatment lowers the amount of organic material in the water. Then the water flows to a settling tank, where the organisms and remaining particles sink as sludge. The clearer water stays near the top.
- ③ Before treated water leaves the plant, operators disinfect it to reduce harmful microorganisms. Some plants use chlorine, while others use ultraviolet light. The treated water may be released into a river or used again for certain jobs, depending on local rules. Sludge is processed separately and may be turned into biosolids for approved uses, such as soil products.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the name of the structure that catches wipes and plastic pieces?

2 Which precise phrase names the materials that settle at the bottom of the grit chamber?

3 What word means to make the water safer by reducing harmful microorganisms?

4 Why is the term "aeration tank" more exact than the word "tank" by itself?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that explain how wastewater is treated, from its arrival at the plant to its release or reuse. Use at least four domain-specific words or phrases from the passage, and put the steps in order.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline at least six precise or domain-specific words or phrases that explain how wastewater is cleaned. These words make the process clear and exact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the name of the structure that catches wipes and plastic pieces?	a screen
2	Which precise phrase names the materials that settle at the bottom of the grit chamber?	heavy sand and small stones
3	What word means to make the water safer by reducing harmful microorganisms?	disinfect
4	Why is the term "aeration tank" more exact than the word "tank" by itself?	It tells that air is added in that tank.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wastewater enters a treatment plant, where a screen and grit chamber remove large trash, sand, and stones. In an aeration tank, organisms break down dissolved waste before particles sink as sludge in a settling tank. Operators disinfect the clearer water before it is released or reused under local rules.

Accept accurate three-sentence explanations that follow the passage sequence and use at least four precise terms, such as grit chamber, aeration tank, dissolved waste, settling tank, sludge, disinfect, or biosolids. Students may describe release into a river or reuse for certain jobs.