Beacon Evidence

Use details to support clear ideas about a historical landmark.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.9 "Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show what the lighthouse did for ships. Number two details that show the work people did to keep it useful, then use those details to support a claim.

The Light on Seguin Island

1. On a rocky island off the coast of Maine, the crew at Seguin Island Light once depended on a huge lens to send a beam far over the ocean. In 1857, workers installed a Fresnel lens made of many glass prisms. The prisms bent and focused lamplight into a strong beam. Sailors could spot the light from much farther away than an ordinary lamp.

2. Keeping the lens bright took daily work. A keeper had to carry fuel up the tower, light the lamp at sunset, and clean soot from the glass. Even a small amount of dirt could weaken the beam. During storms, keepers also listened for fog signals and watched the water. Their careful work helped ships avoid dangerous rocks near the island.

3. Today, Seguin Island Light is no longer staffed by keepers every night. Volunteers and preservation groups work to protect the lighthouse and its history. The original lens is displayed at the Maine Maritime Museum, while a modern light shines from the tower. These changes show that the lighthouse still serves two purposes: it aids navigation and teaches visitors about the past.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What claim can you make about why the Fresnel lens was important? Use two details from the first paragraph to support your claim.

2. What evidence supports the claim that being a lighthouse keeper required careful work? Give two details from the second paragraph.

3. Which detail best supports the idea that the lighthouse protected ships? Explain how the detail supports that idea.

4. How does the final paragraph support the inference that the lighthouse's role changed but did not end? Use two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label that explains how technology and human work made Seguin Island Light useful. State a claim, include two details from the passage, and explain how each detail supports your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Beacon Evidence

GRADE 5 · W.5.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show what the lighthouse did for ships. Number two details that show the work people did to keep it useful, then use those details to support a claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim can you make about why the Fresnel lens was important? Use two details from the first paragraph to support your claim.	**The lens was important because it made the lighthouse easier for sailors to see. Its glass prisms focused the lamplight into a strong beam, and sailors could spot it farther away than an ordinary lamp.**
2	What evidence supports the claim that being a lighthouse keeper required careful work? Give two details from the second paragraph.	**Keepers carried fuel up the tower, lit the lamp at sunset, and cleaned soot from the glass. They also listened for fog signals and watched the water during storms.**
3	Which detail best supports the idea that the lighthouse protected ships? Explain how the detail supports that idea.	**The detail that careful work helped ships avoid dangerous rocks best supports the idea. It directly explains how the lighthouse work kept ships safer.**
4	How does the final paragraph support the inference that the lighthouse's role changed but did not end? Use two details.	**The original lens is now displayed at a museum, showing that the lighthouse teaches people about history. A modern light still shines from the tower, showing that it still aids navigation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Seguin Island Light made ocean travel safer because it combined a powerful lens with daily care. Its glass prisms focused lamplight into a beam sailors could see farther away, helping them notice the light. Keepers cleaned soot from the glass, which kept dirt from weakening the beam.

Accept equivalent claims when students support them with accurate details from the passage. For the open task, accept three sentences with a clear claim, two relevant details, and explanations that connect both details to the claim.