Water Words Work

A model explanation using precise water-treatment vocabulary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2d "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 six domain-specific terms that name treatment materials, processes, measurements, or parts of the water system. Circle one precise action word in each paragraph to notice how exact words explain water's path.

From River to Tap

1. Before water reaches city taps, it travels through a treatment plant. First, workers add coagulants, chemicals that cause tiny particles of dirt and other material to clump together. In a mixing basin, these clumps grow into heavier pieces called floc. The floc settles to the bottom of a sedimentation tank, while clearer water moves onward. This step removes many suspended solids, but it does not remove every germ or dissolved substance still present in the water.

2. Next, the water passes through filters made of layers such as sand, gravel, and anthracite coal. The filter media trap smaller particles that escaped sedimentation. Plant operators then disinfect the water, often with chlorine or chloramine, to inactivate harmful microorganisms. They test samples for turbidity, a measure of cloudiness, and for disinfectant levels. These measurements help operators decide whether the water meets safety requirements before it enters storage tanks and distribution pipes that serve nearby homes.

3. Clean water must remain protected after treatment. Storage tanks hold treated water until pumps send it through a distribution system. Pressure in the pipes helps move water to homes, schools, and businesses. Utility crews inspect pipes for leaks because a broken main can waste treated water and allow contaminants to enter. In some systems, operators maintain a small disinfectant residual so the water stays protected as it travels. Residents can report discolored water or a sudden loss of pressure to the utility.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find the sentence about the mixing basin. What term does the author use for the heavier clumps, and what term names the tank where they settle?

2. The author uses turbidity instead of only saying water is cloudy. According to the passage, what does turbidity measure?

3. Which precise verb tells what chlorine or chloramine does to harmful microorganisms?

4. What phrase names the protection that remains in water as it travels through the system?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that explain, in order, how the water is protected from particles and microorganisms at the plant and while it travels through pipes. Use at least five domain-specific terms from the passage accurately.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · W.6.2d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six domain-specific terms that name treatment materials, processes, measurements, or parts of the water system. Circle one precise action word in each paragraph to notice how exact words explain water's path. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find the sentence about the mixing basin. What term does the author use for the heavier clumps, and what term names the tank where they settle?	**floc; sedimentation tank**
2	The author uses turbidity instead of only saying water is cloudy. According to the passage, what does turbidity measure?	**cloudiness**
3	Which precise verb tells what chlorine or chloramine does to harmful microorganisms?	**inactivate**
4	What phrase names the protection that remains in water as it travels through the system?	**a small disinfectant residual**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a treatment plant, coagulants form floc, which settles in a sedimentation tank, and filters trap smaller particles. Operators disinfect the water with chlorine or chloramine to inactivate harmful microorganisms and test turbidity and disinfectant levels. Pumps send the treated water through a distribution system, where a disinfectant residual helps protect it as it travels.

Accept any six accurate domain-specific terms and a supported precise action word from each paragraph. For Part 3, accept exactly three sentences that use at least five passage terms accurately and explain the treatment and distribution sequence.