Trail of Time

Track how transitions guide a reader through events, times, and places.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.3c "Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each transition word, phrase, or clause in the passage. Next to each one, write S for sequence, T for a time or setting shift, or R for a relationship between ideas.

Counting Bats at Dusk

1 On Friday afternoon, Maya carried a clipboard to the river trail, where her science club planned to count bats. At first, the park looked empty except for cyclists and a heron near the reeds. Meanwhile, volunteers stretched a thin measuring tape across the path to mark the viewing area. Before sunset, Maya checked the thermometer and wrote 78 degrees on the first line of her chart. She had expected a quiet evening, but the bright riverbank still felt busy.

2 An hour later, the trail had changed. The cyclists were gone, and the heron stood still in the darkening water. As the sun slipped behind the hills, the group faced the river and listened. Then, one bat flickered above the trees, followed by three more. Maya numbered each sighting, although the bats moved too quickly to identify. By 8:30, dozens crossed the fading sky. In that same moment, the riverbank seemed less crowded, because every person had become silent and watchful.

3 Later that night, Maya returned home and compared her chart with a map of the trail. Earlier, she had assumed bats would stay near the river; however, most sightings had occurred beside the oak grove. Therefore, she drew a star on that section of the map and added a note for the club. The next morning, during the meeting at school, Maya shared the pattern with her classmates. Afterward, they decided to visit the oak grove first on their next count, so they could observe the bats more carefully.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which transition phrase in paragraph 1 signals a shift from afternoon preparation to a later time? What does Maya do after that shift?

2. In paragraph 2, what event occurs after the group listens, and which transition introduces that event?

3. What two ideas does "however" connect in paragraph 3?

4. Why is "Therefore" an effective transition before Maya draws a star on the map?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word account of finding or learning something. Move the account between at least two times or settings, and use at least five transition words, phrases, or clauses, including one that shows a cause, effect, or contrast.

ANSWER KEY

Trail of Time

GRADE 8 · W.8.3c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each transition word, phrase, or clause in the passage. Next to each one, write S for sequence, T for a time or setting shift, or R for a relationship between ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which transition phrase in paragraph 1 signals a shift from afternoon preparation to a later time? What does Maya do after that shift?	**"Before sunset" signals the shift. Maya checks the thermometer and records 78 degrees on her chart.**
2	In paragraph 2, what event occurs after the group listens, and which transition introduces that event?	**One bat flickers above the trees. The transition is "Then."**
3	What two ideas does "however" connect in paragraph 3?	**It connects Maya's earlier belief that bats would stay near the river with the finding that most sightings occurred beside the oak grove.**
4	Why is "Therefore" an effective transition before Maya draws a star on the map?	**It shows that the sightings near the oak grove caused Maya to mark that area on the map.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before first period, I found a cracked compass in the drama room. At first, I thought it was a prop from the last play. Then Ms. Ortiz said the compass belonged to the school's first principal. After lunch, I carried it to the library, where the history club was sorting old photographs. As we compared dates, we discovered a picture of the principal holding the same compass. Therefore, we placed it in a display case. Later that week, students stopped to read its label.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately name the transition and describe its effect on the events or ideas. For the open response, look for a clear progression, a shift in time or setting, and at least five purposeful transitions.