River Clue Hunt

Use context to infer precise meanings of academic words.

ELA.11.V.1 "Finding Meaning"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words inundated, remnant, mitigate, and resilient. Underline at least two nearby words or phrases for each circled word that help you infer its meaning, then write a brief meaning in the margin.

Making Room for the Kissimmee

1 Along the Kissimmee River in central Florida, a flood-control project in the 1960s straightened much of the river into a canal. The shorter, deeper channel drained nearby wetlands quickly, but it also altered habitats and carried water south at a faster pace. Beginning in the 1990s, restoration crews filled sections of the canal and reopened parts of the historic river path. During high water, nearby floodplain areas may be inundated temporarily, with grasses and shallow pools beneath river water. The work does not eliminate floods. Instead, it allows more water to spread across wetlands, restoring a slower, broader flow.

2 At restored reaches, a remnant of the former river can be seen where an old bend remained beside the canal. It is not a newly dug channel. Before the canal was built, the Kissimmee moved in wide loops across its floodplain. Restoration crews used parts of that earlier pattern to reconnect wetlands with flowing water. The returning water supports wading birds, fish, and other wildlife that depend on shallow floodplain habitat. This surviving feature helps visitors see that restoration can recover part of a landscape without recreating every condition exactly.

3 Restoring the Kissimmee is only one tool for reducing flood risk. Communities still need reliable forecasts, evacuation plans, and buildings designed for high water. Yet a connected floodplain can mitigate damage by holding water across a wide area rather than forcing it through a narrow corridor. It can also make a community more resilient. After a flood, residents with safe routes, working wetlands, and clear information may recover more quickly. The lesson is not that wetlands alone solve flooding, but that planning can combine natural systems with human choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does inundated most nearly mean in paragraph 1? Give two details that support your meaning.

2. What does remnant mean in paragraph 2? Explain how the passage helps you infer the meaning.

3. What does mitigate mean in paragraph 3? Which action in the passage shows this meaning?

4. What does resilient mean in paragraph 3? How do safe routes, working wetlands, and clear information clarify the word?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence mini-passage that uses one academic word a reader may not know. Include at least two context clues that reveal the word's meaning, then add a line beginning with “Meaning:” and give a brief definition.

ANSWER KEY

River Clue Hunt

GRADE 11 · ELA.11.V.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words inundated, remnant, mitigate, and resilient. Underline at least two nearby words or phrases for each circled word that help you infer its meaning, then write a brief meaning in the margin. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does inundated most nearly mean in paragraph 1? Give two details that support your meaning.	**Inundated means flooded or covered with water. Supporting details include the high water and the grasses and shallow pools beneath river water.**
2	What does remnant mean in paragraph 2? Explain how the passage helps you infer the meaning.	**A remnant is a surviving part from an earlier time. The old river bend remained beside the canal, and the passage calls it a surviving feature.**
3	What does mitigate mean in paragraph 3? Which action in the passage shows this meaning?	**Mitigate means reduce or lessen. The floodplain holds water across a wide area instead of forcing it through a narrow corridor.**
4	What does resilient mean in paragraph 3? How do safe routes, working wetlands, and clear information clarify the word?	**Resilient means able to recover after difficulty. Those resources help residents recover more quickly after a flood.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The committee found the proposal ambiguous, so some members thought it banned all cars while others believed it affected only delivery trucks. After the chair explained the sentence's two possible readings, the group rewrote it to be precise. Meaning: Ambiguous means unclear because it can be understood in more than one way.

Accept equivalent meanings when students support them with accurate details from the passage. For Part 3, accept any appropriate academic word, two genuine context clues, and an accurate brief definition.