Mangrove Word Detectives

Use syllables and word parts to decode a coastal forest text.

ELA.4.F.1.3 "Use knowledge of grade-level phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words. Apply knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six multisyllabic words, then circle a prefix or suffix in four of the words you underlined to show how word parts help you read them.

Mangroves on the Coast

1 Along warm coastlines, mangrove forests grow where land meets salt water. Their tangled roots rise above the mud and slow waves during storms. This unusual tree can live in water that would harm many other plants. Each root system helps protect the shore from erosion, which is the gradual wearing away of land over time.

2 Many animals depend on this habitat. Small fish hide among the roots, while young crabs search for food nearby. Birds use the branches as nesting places. The forest also acts as a nursery, giving tiny animals a safer place to grow before they enter the open ocean. Without mangroves, some coastal communities would lose an important natural defense.

3 Scientists and volunteers sometimes work together on restoration projects. They collect seeds, raise seedlings, and replant them in damaged areas. A successful project needs careful planning because tides, soil, and weather can change quickly. When people understand how mangroves work, they can make wiser choices about protecting these remarkable forests for the future of coasts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write the word unusual with syllable dots.

2. Which word in paragraph 3 begins with the prefix re-? What does re- mean in that word?

3. In the word nesting from paragraph 2, what is the base word and what is the suffix?

4. Write restoration with syllable dots. How many syllables does it have?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a complete sentence about a natural place. Use a new multisyllabic word, not from the passage, that has a prefix or suffix, divide that word with dots, and underline its prefix or suffix.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · ELA.4.F.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six multisyllabic words, then circle a prefix or suffix in four of the words you underlined to show how word parts help you read them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write the word unusual with syllable dots.	**un·u·su·al**
2	Which word in paragraph 3 begins with the prefix re-? What does re- mean in that word?	**replant; re- means again.**
3	In the word nesting from paragraph 2, what is the base word and what is the suffix?	**Base word: nest. Suffix: -ing.**
4	Write restoration with syllable dots. How many syllables does it have?	**res·to·ra·tion; 4 syllables.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The mountain weather was _un_·pre·dict·a·ble.

Accept any six correctly identified multisyllabic words and four correctly marked prefixes or suffixes. For Part 3, accept a complete sentence with a new multisyllabic word, accurate syllable divisions, and a correctly underlined prefix or suffix.