Cave Word Mapper

Use syllables and word parts to spell longer words.

ELA.612.F.2.3 "Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in encoding words. a. Use an array of strategies to accurately encode single-syllable and multisyllabic words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline eight words with two or more syllables. Write the number of syllables you hear above each underlined word to help you break long words into spellable parts.

Mapping Mammoth Cave

1 Below a forest in Kentucky, Mammoth Cave contains a vast network of underground passages. Cave explorers carry helmets, flashlights, and sturdy boots because the chambers can be dark, wet, and uneven. They move carefully to protect both themselves and the cave. A small mistake can damage delicate mineral formations that took thousands of years to grow. Scientists also study cave air, water, and rock to learn how this subterranean landscape changes over time each season.

2 To create an accurate map, a survey team measures each tunnel and chamber. One person records distances, while another checks direction with a compass. Today, some teams use digital equipment, but careful notes remain important. A map can show where a narrow passage leads to a larger room or where water collects after rain. These measurements help researchers compare the cave's features and plan safe routes for future exploration and conservation work outside the cave.

3 Mapping is not only about reaching new places. It helps protect a fragile environment. For example, when researchers discover a colony of bats, they may mark its location and avoid disturbing it during hibernation. They examine dripping water and limestone surfaces for clues about the cave's history. By combining observation, measurement, and patience, teams build reliable records that other scientists and trained local guides can use safely during later studies, conservation decisions, and future visits.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find subterranean in paragraph 1. Write the word in syllable chunks, then write the whole word.

2. Find measurement in paragraph 3. What base word and suffix help you spell it? Write the complete word.

3. The passage uses the plural word flashlights. Remove the plural ending, then write the two smaller words that make the singular compound word.

4. Find carefully in paragraph 1. Write its base word and ending, then write the complete word.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one informational sentence about studying a natural place. Include a compound word, a word ending in -ment or -ly, and a word with three or more syllables. Underline each of those three words, or put brackets around them.

ANSWER KEY

Cave Word Mapper

GRADE 6 · ELA.612.F.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline eight words with two or more syllables. Write the number of syllables you hear above each underlined word to help you break long words into spellable parts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find subterranean in paragraph 1. Write the word in syllable chunks, then write the whole word.	**sub-ter-ra-ne-an; subterranean**
2	Find measurement in paragraph 3. What base word and suffix help you spell it? Write the complete word.	**measure + -ment; measurement**
3	The passage uses the plural word flashlights. Remove the plural ending, then write the two smaller words that make the singular compound word.	**flash + light; flashlight**
4	Find carefully in paragraph 1. Write its base word and ending, then write the complete word.	**careful + -ly; carefully**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A ranger uses a [flashlight] to record a [measurement] in a [mountainous] cave.

Accept correct spellings and reasonable syllable chunking that preserves the word. For Part 3, accept any accurate informational sentence that includes and marks all three required word types.