Signals Below

Use word parts and nearby clues to unlock precise meanings.

ELA.612.F.2 "Applying Foundational Reading Skills for Secondary"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four longer words that contain a prefix, suffix, or meaningful root. Circle the word part you know, and number the nearby words that help you infer each word's meaning.

Watching Mount Etna

1 Mount Etna, on the Italian island of Sicily, is one of Europe's most active volcanoes. Scientists monitor it with seismometers, tools that record tiny ground shakes called tremors. A sudden increase in tremors can signal that molten rock is moving in the subsurface, the area below the ground. The tools send information to a station, where researchers compare new readings with older readings. This observation cannot predict every eruption, but it helps nearby communities prepare more safely in advance for possible danger.

2 When activity becomes intense, local officials may issue an evacuation order. An evacuation is a planned move from a dangerous place to a safer one. Residents may travel along marked routes and stay in temporary shelters until officials say it is safe to return. Emergency workers also explain why some roads are closed. Clear instructions can prevent confusion, especially when ash falls and visibility, or how far people can see, becomes limited during an eruption.

3 Researchers also examine volcanic gases. A sensor can detect rising sulfur dioxide, a gas released from magma. If the amount increases, scientists may warn that an eruption is more likely. However, a warning is not a guarantee. Wind, rain, and other nonvolcanic conditions can affect some measurements, so teams use several kinds of evidence before sharing a report. Their combined data help officials make careful decisions about public safety and travel in nearby towns each day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the prefix sub- and the phrase after subsurface to determine the meaning of subsurface.

2. How does the first paragraph define seismometers?

3. The suffix -ity can mean "state or condition." What does visibility mean here? Cite the short phrase that confirms your meaning.

4. Use the prefix non- and the rest of paragraph 3 to determine the meaning of nonvolcanic conditions.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a longer unfamiliar word from a current science, social studies, or ELA text that is not in this passage. Write the word, identify a prefix, suffix, or root, state its likely meaning, and quote or describe a context clue that confirms or changes your idea.

ANSWER KEY # Signals Below

GRADE 6 · ELA.612.F.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four longer words that contain a prefix, suffix, or meaningful root. Circle the word part you know, and number the nearby words that help you infer each word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the prefix sub- and the phrase after subsurface to determine the meaning of subsurface.	**The area below the ground or below the surface.**
2	How does the first paragraph define seismometers?	**They are tools that record tiny ground shakes, called tremors.**
3	The suffix -ity can mean "state or condition." What does visibility mean here? Cite the short phrase that confirms your meaning.	**Visibility means how far people can see. The confirming phrase is "how far people can see."**
4	Use the prefix non- and the rest of paragraph 3 to determine the meaning of nonvolcanic conditions.	**Conditions not caused by volcanoes, such as wind and rain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Reconstruction: re- means again, and construct means build. It means building again. The text said workers rebuilt the bridge after the storm, confirming the meaning.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by both word parts and nearby context. For the open task, accept any accurate analysis of a word not used in the passage, with a relevant context clue.