Clues in the Roots

Find word meanings through context and word parts.

ELA.7.V.1 "Finding Meaning"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each important word whose meaning you can figure out from the passage. Underline the nearby clues that help, and number each word with its matching clues.

Mangroves at Work

1 Along tropical and subtropical coasts, mangroves grow where land meets salt water. Their arching roots stabilize the shoreline. When waves push against the coast, the roots slow the water and hold loose soil in place. This protection can reduce erosion, the wearing away of land. Mangroves also create sheltered spaces between their roots. Small fish, crabs, and shrimp can hide there from larger animals. Although mangroves often stand in salty water, different species use different ways to manage salt.

2 At high tide, water may cover the lower roots, but many mangroves have air passages that help them take in oxygen. The muddy area among the roots works as a nursery for young sea creatures, not as a room for human babies. Juvenile fish spend early stages of life there, protected from swift currents and predators. Fallen leaves become food for tiny organisms. In turn, those organisms feed fish and birds. This interconnected food web supports animals both in the forest and in nearby coastal waters.

3 Storms can damage a mangrove forest, snapping branches and burying roots under sediment. After a storm, new growth may gradually replenish the damaged area. Here, replenish suggests supplying again what was lost. Recovery is not always quick, especially if people remove trees or block the flow of water. Communities sometimes restore damaged shores by planting mangrove seedlings. Such projects are most successful when they carefully match the species to the local water, soil, and tidal conditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does stabilize mean in paragraph 1? Which details help you determine its meaning?

2. What does nursery mean as it is used in paragraph 2? Give two details that support your answer.

3. What does interconnected mean in the phrase "interconnected food web"? Explain using one food relationship from paragraph 2.

4. How do the prefix re- and the phrase "again what was lost" help define replenish in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about repairing or protecting a place. Use one word with a prefix, and include context clues that show the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in the Roots

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.V.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each important word whose meaning you can figure out from the passage. Underline the nearby clues that help, and number each word with its matching clues. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does stabilize mean in paragraph 1? Which details help you determine its meaning?	**Stabilize means make or keep firm in place. The roots slow the water and hold loose soil in place.**
2	What does nursery mean as it is used in paragraph 2? Give two details that support your answer.	**Nursery means a protected place where young sea creatures live and grow. Juvenile fish spend early life there and are protected from currents and predators.**
3	What does interconnected mean in the phrase "interconnected food web"? Explain using one food relationship from paragraph 2.	**Interconnected means linked together and dependent on one another. Fallen leaves feed tiny organisms, and those organisms feed fish and birds.**
4	How do the prefix re- and the phrase "again what was lost" help define replenish in paragraph 3?	**The prefix re- means again. Replenish means to supply or replace again what was lost.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the trail flooded, workers rebuilt the broken bridge so hikers could cross the stream again. Their repair made the route usable.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by nearby words, phrases, or word parts in the passage. For the open task, accept any two sentences that use a prefix word and provide clear clues to its meaning.