Words Under Glass

Use sources and evidence to choose the most precise language.

11.L.V.3.e "Make strategic language decisions when writing or speaking by determining, clarifying, or verifying the nuanced meanings of closely related words or phrases using available print and/or digital resources. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word or phrase Lena chooses for a museum label, circle each source she checks, and number the evidence details that support her choices.

Writing a Museum Label

1. At Harbor City Museum, label writer Lena prepared a caption for a bronze compass lifted from the wreck of the Aurora, a cargo ship that sank in 1891. "Object" would be accurate, but its broad meaning could describe almost anything. Lena chose "artifact" because the compass was made and used by people in a past culture. Before deciding, she checked the museum's collection catalog, which calls historically significant human-made items artifacts. Her draft read, "This navigation artifact guided sailors aboard the Aurora." The label would help visitors see it as evidence of working life.

2. A second label described the compass's condition. "Restored" can suggest returning an item to an earlier appearance, often through replacement or reconstruction. The conservation report said that staff removed salt, stabilized small cracks, and retained the original surface. No missing pieces were replaced. Lena therefore avoided "restored" and "repaired," which can imply that something was made whole or usable again. After consulting a conservation glossary, she wrote, "The compass was conserved to slow further deterioration while preserving its existing material." This choice also matched the documented treatment.

3. Lena's final sentence had to separate evidence from inference. A digitized dive log recorded that divers recovered the compass in 2018 from sediment beside the wreck. She used "recovered," not "excavated": the log documented retrieval during a survey, not systematic digging in an archaeological excavation. The ship's 1891 manifest identified navigation equipment, but it did not list this compass by name. Lena wrote that it was "likely used aboard the Aurora," rather than "certainly used" or "possibly used." "Likely" matched substantial evidence without claiming proof. Her digital sources let visitors trace each word choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Lena choose "artifact" instead of "object" for the compass?

2. Which word, "restored," "repaired," or "conserved," best matches the documented treatment? Explain using two details from the report.

3. Why is "recovered" more precise than "excavated" for the 2018 event?

4. Why does Lena use "likely used" instead of "certainly used" or "possibly used"?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence, 45 to 60 word announcement about a school library adding a student-made podcast archive. Use either "preserve" or "protect" and either "collection" or "archive" strategically. Then add a parenthetical source note naming a print or digital dictionary, glossary, or style guide and explaining why one chosen word is more precise.

ANSWER KEY

Words Under Glass

GRADE 11 · 11.L.V.3.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word or phrase Lena chooses for a museum label, circle each source she checks, and number the evidence details that support her choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Lena choose "artifact" instead of "object" for the compass?	**"Artifact" identifies the compass as a human-made item from a past culture, while "object" is much broader.**
2	Which word, "restored," "repaired," or "conserved," best matches the documented treatment? Explain using two details from the report.	**"Conserved." Staff removed salt and stabilized cracks while retaining the original surface, and they did not replace missing pieces.**
3	Why is "recovered" more precise than "excavated" for the 2018 event?	**Divers retrieved the compass during a survey. The dive log does not describe systematic digging in an archaeological excavation.**
4	Why does Lena use "likely used" instead of "certainly used" or "possibly used"?	**The manifest provides substantial evidence because it lists navigation equipment, but it does not name this compass. "Likely" shows strong evidence without claiming proof.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library will archive student podcasts so future listeners can study how campus issues and student perspectives were discussed this year. Staff will preserve the original audio files, rather than merely protect access to them, because preservation focuses on keeping the recordings usable, organized, and available over time. (Library of Congress Digital Preservation: preserve emphasizes continuing access to digital files)

Accept responses that distinguish the terms by using the passage's evidence and sources, not merely by calling one word better. For the open task, accept accurate, context-supported word choices and a source note that explains a meaningful difference between the selected terms.