Wetland Word Detectives

Use context clues to grow vocabulary from an informational text.

5.L.V.1.a "Acquire a range of general, academic, and specialized vocabulary words and phrases through grade-level texts and content. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words whose meanings are explained by nearby text. Draw a box around the words that give a clue to each underlined word's meaning.

A Visit to the Wetland

1. On Saturday, students visited a wetland near their town. A wetland is land that stays covered or soaked with water for part of the year. Their guide asked them to observe the shallow pools, where the water was not deep, tall reeds, and muddy banks. She explained that the area provides habitat, or a natural home, for frogs, turtles, and many birds.

2. Next, the class collected evidence by recording what they saw in two different pools. They compared the notes and found more insect larvae in the pool with thick plants. The guide said the plants may filter dirt from the water. Based on their observations, students could conclude that healthy plant growth supports many wetland animals.

3. Later, the guide described a restoration project planned for a damaged stream bank. Restoration means repairing a place so it can work well again. Workers will plant native shrubs, which grow naturally in the region. The shrubs' roots can hold soil in place and reduce erosion, the wearing away of land by water or wind.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does shallow mean in paragraph 1? Which words in the passage help you figure it out?

2. What does evidence mean in paragraph 2? Use the sentence to explain your answer.

3. In paragraph 2, what does filter mean when the guide says plants may filter dirt from water?

4. What does erosion mean in paragraph 3? Use the words after the comma to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a topic you are studying. Use one specialized word and one academic word, and add context clues that explain what each word means.

ANSWER KEY

Wetland Word Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.L.V.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words whose meanings are explained by nearby text. Draw a box around the words that give a clue to each underlined word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does shallow mean in paragraph 1? Which words in the passage help you figure it out?	**Shallow means not deep. The clue is "where the water was not deep."**
2	What does evidence mean in paragraph 2? Use the sentence to explain your answer.	**Evidence is information collected from observations, such as the notes students recorded about what they saw.**
3	In paragraph 2, what does filter mean when the guide says plants may filter dirt from water?	**Filter means remove dirt from the water.**
4	What does erosion mean in paragraph 3? Use the words after the comma to support your answer.	**Erosion is the wearing away of land by water or wind.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a food web, a predator is an animal that hunts other animals for food. Scientists analyze, or study carefully, the food web to see how the animals depend on one another.

Accept student explanations that match the context clues in the passage, even if the wording differs. For Part 3, accept two connected sentences with one specialized word, one academic word, and clear clues to both meanings.