Words at Work

See how precise words strengthen a wetland report.

5.L.V.1 "General, Academic, & Specialized Vocabulary: Acquire and use general, academic, and specialized vocabulary words and phrases with precision in a variety of settings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four specialized science words, circle two academic words that help explain a study, and box two general words. These marks show how different kinds of vocabulary make a report clear.

Beavers Build Habitats

1. At the edge of a wetland, a beaver begins a busy night. The animal gathers branches, mud, and stones to repair its dam, a wall built across moving water. The dam slows the stream and creates a pond. Near the pond, the beaver's lodge serves as a home and a safe place to rest. Its underwater entrance helps protect the beaver from many predators.

2. Beavers change more than one animal's home. As water spreads behind a dam, the area may become a larger wetland. This habitat can support frogs, fish, insects, and water birds. Scientists collect evidence, such as water-depth measurements and animal observations, to study these changes. Their data can show whether the pond is helping different species find food, shelter, and places to raise young.

3. People sometimes use the general word animals when they describe a wetland. A scientist may choose a more precise word, such as amphibians, mammals, or birds. Each word gives clearer information. For example, calling a frog an amphibian tells readers about its group. Precise vocabulary helps a field report explain what happened at a study site without making readers guess.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In the first paragraph, what does the specialized word lodge mean?

2. What are three more precise words the passage gives instead of the general word animals?

3. What evidence do scientists collect, and what can their data show?

4. Why is amphibian more precise than animal when describing a frog?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence field report about a pond or stream. Use at least one general word, one academic word, and two specialized wetland words.

ANSWER KEY

Words at Work

GRADE 5 · 5.L.V.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four specialized science words, circle two academic words that help explain a study, and box two general words. These marks show how different kinds of vocabulary make a report clear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In the first paragraph, what does the specialized word lodge mean?	**A beaver's home and safe place to rest.**
2	What are three more precise words the passage gives instead of the general word animals?	**Amphibians, mammals, and birds.**
3	What evidence do scientists collect, and what can their data show?	**They collect water-depth measurements and animal observations. Their data can show whether the pond helps species find food, shelter, and places to raise young.**
4	Why is amphibian more precise than animal when describing a frog?	**It tells the reader the group the frog belongs to.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the wetland, I observed animals near the pond. My data showed that amphibians used the shallow water.

Accept reasonable specialized examples such as wetland, dam, lodge, habitat, amphibians, mammals, and birds, and academic examples such as evidence, measurements, observations, and data. For Part 3, accept any accurate two-sentence report that includes the required kinds of vocabulary used clearly.