Reef Word Detectives

Use nearby clues and word parts to unlock meaning.

5.P.EICC.3.g "Determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and concepts by applying knowledge of context and of academic vocabulary and word parts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word or phrase that helps explain an unfamiliar word, then circle the unfamiliar word. Use your marks to figure out what the word means.

Growing a Coral Reef

1. On a reef near Florida, scientists are helping young corals grow. A coral nursery is an underwater place where small coral pieces are cared for before they are moved to a damaged reef. Divers attach the pieces to underwater frames. The frames hold the corals in sunlight and moving water, where they can grow stronger.

2. Before placement, workers inspect each coral for disease. They record observations, or careful notes about what they see, in a field journal. This data helps the team compare growth over time. If one group grows slowly, the scientists can investigate possible causes, such as warmer water or too much sediment, loose material that can cloud the water and settle on corals.

3. After several months, divers transplant some corals, moving them from the nursery to bare areas of the reef. The prefix trans- means across or from one place to another. Scientists monitor the transplanted corals regularly. To monitor means to check something carefully over time. Their results show whether the restoration plan is working as expected.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does nursery mean in paragraph 1? Name one detail that helped you determine its meaning.

2. What does observations mean in paragraph 2? Which words in the sentence give you the clue?

3. What does sediment mean in paragraph 2? Use the context clues to explain it.

4. Use the prefix trans- and the sentence around it to explain what transplant means in paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences that use one unfamiliar word with a helpful word part. Include a context clue that helps a reader figure out the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Word Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.P.EICC.3.g

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word or phrase that helps explain an unfamiliar word, then circle the unfamiliar word. Use your marks to figure out what the word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does nursery mean in paragraph 1? Name one detail that helped you determine its meaning.	**A nursery is an underwater place where small coral pieces are cared for before being moved. The sentence explains that the pieces are cared for there before they go to a damaged reef.**
2	What does observations mean in paragraph 2? Which words in the sentence give you the clue?	**Observations means careful notes about what workers see. The clue words are "careful notes about what they see."**
3	What does sediment mean in paragraph 2? Use the context clues to explain it.	**Sediment is loose material in the water that can cloud the water and settle on corals.**
4	Use the prefix trans- and the sentence around it to explain what transplant means in paragraph 3.	**Transplant means to move corals from one place to another, from the nursery to bare areas of the reef.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The hikers followed a subterranean trail beneath the ground. The prefix sub- means under, and the trail passed through a dark tunnel below the park.

Accept equivalent meanings when students use accurate context clues from the passage. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response with an unfamiliar word, a correct word-part clue, and a clear context clue.