

Coastline Helpers

Identify how a model article builds and closes a topic.

5.T.T.2.d "Apply expository techniques that clearly introduce a topic, group paragraphs or sections to develop the topic with facts and other information (e.g., definitions, concrete details, quotations), use precise language..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first sentence of each paragraph, circle two precise words or terms, and box the final sentence to see how the author introduces, develops, and concludes the topic.

Mangroves at Work

- ① Mangrove forests protect tropical coastlines where land meets salty water. A mangrove is a tree or shrub that can grow in salty, muddy soil. Its tangled roots rise above the ground and slow waves. These forests grow along sheltered shores in places such as Florida, Mexico, India, and Australia. Because mangroves stand between the sea and the land, they help shape a safer shoreline.
- ② Mangrove roots create nurseries for young animals. The underwater root spaces give small fish, crabs, and shrimp places to hide from larger predators. Birds may nest in the branches, while oysters attach to roots near the waterline. As tides move in and out, the roots trap sediment, which is tiny pieces of sand, soil, and shells. Trapped sediment can keep shorelines from washing away.
- ③ People also depend on mangroves during storms. When strong waves reach a mangrove forest, the roots and trunks reduce some of the water's force before it reaches homes and roads. Mangroves cannot stop every flood, but they are one useful natural barrier. Protecting these forests, and planting them where they once grew, helps coastal communities and wildlife. In short, mangroves are valuable because they shelter animals, hold soil, and soften waves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What topic does the first sentence introduce, and what benefit does it name?

2 Which paragraph develops the idea that mangroves help animals? Give two details from that paragraph.

3 Which precise term does the author define in paragraph 2? What does it mean?

4 What sentence concludes the passage, and how does it sum up the topic?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-paragraph mini article about a natural feature that helps people or animals. Introduce the topic in paragraph 1, develop it with facts, a definition, and concrete details in paragraph 2, then end with a concluding statement in paragraph 3. Use at least four precise words or terms.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the first sentence of each paragraph, circle two precise words or terms, and box the final sentence to see how the author introduces, develops, and concludes the topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the first sentence introduce, and what benefit does it name?	It introduces mangrove forests and says they protect tropical coastlines.
2	Which paragraph develops the idea that mangroves help animals? Give two details from that paragraph.	Paragraph 2. Root spaces hide young fish, crabs, and shrimp from predators, and birds may nest in branches or oysters attach to roots.
3	Which precise term does the author define in paragraph 2? What does it mean?	Sediment. It means tiny pieces of sand, soil, and shells.
4	What sentence concludes the passage, and how does it sum up the topic?	"In short, mangroves are valuable because they shelter animals, hold soil, and soften waves." It sums up the three main benefits explained in the passage.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Coral reefs are busy ocean habitats built by tiny animals called coral polyps. A coral polyp is a tiny animal that makes a hard calcium carbonate skeleton. Over many years, thousands of skeletons form a reef in warm, shallow water. Reefs give fish hiding places among branches, holes, and ledges. Parrotfish scrape algae from reef surfaces, and sea turtles may feed nearby. The rough reef structure also breaks apart some wave energy before waves reach the shore. Coral reefs need clean water and careful protection. Pollution, warmer water, and harmful fishing can damage the living polyps. In conclusion, reefs are important because they support many animals and help protect coasts.

Accept equivalent evidence from the passage when students explain paragraph development, precise language, or the conclusion. For the writing task, look for three clear paragraphs, an introduction, grouped facts and details including a definition, precise vocabulary, and a conclusion.