Words at Work

Use context clues to understand vocabulary in a real-world report.

6.L.V.1 "General, Academic, & Specialized Vocabulary: Use a variety of approaches to continuously build vocabulary across a range of real-life, academic..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle three vocabulary words whose meanings are explained nearby. Underline the words or phrases that help you figure out each meaning.

A Park Tree Survey

1 On a hot July morning, Maya joined a city tree survey at Riverside Park. Volunteers carried clipboards, measuring tapes, and a map divided into blocks. Their task was to document, or record carefully, each tree's location, trunk width, and condition. Maya first thought a survey meant asking people questions. The map and measuring tools helped her infer that this survey was a systematic study of the park's trees. Accurate notes would help the city plan future care.

2 At the next block, Maya looked up at the canopy, the layer of branches and leaves formed by many tree crowns. A wide canopy can shade sidewalks and lower surface temperatures. She also noted leaf damage. The team leader asked volunteers to compare observations before entering data. "Use evidence," he said. "Describe what you see, not what you guess." Maya wrote, "Several leaves have holes and brown edges." This precise description could help an arborist, a trained tree-care specialist, decide whether the trees needed closer inspection.

3 Later, the group discussed why trees matter during heat waves. Leaves release water vapor through a process called transpiration. As the water evaporates, it can help cool the air near the leaves. Maya used her notes as evidence when she spoke to the park manager. She explained that the large oaks had broad canopies and appeared healthy. Her clear report separated observations from conclusions. The manager could use the survey data, along with an arborist's inspection, to decide which areas should receive water or protection.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does survey mean in this context? Give two details from the paragraph that support your answer.

2. What does arborist mean? Which nearby words help you determine its meaning?

3. In paragraph 2, how does the team leader explain what counts as evidence?

4. Use the meanings of canopy and transpiration to explain two ways trees may cool an area during a heat wave.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about an outdoor place. Use a general word, an academic word, and a specialized science word, give a context clue for the specialized word, and use the academic word to explain an observation.

ANSWER KEY

Words at Work

GRADE 6 · 6.L.V.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle three vocabulary words whose meanings are explained nearby. Underline the words or phrases that help you figure out each meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does survey mean in this context? Give two details from the paragraph that support your answer.	**A survey is a systematic study that records information about the park's trees. Supporting details include the volunteers' clipboards, measuring tapes, map, and notes about each tree.**
2	What does arborist mean? Which nearby words help you determine its meaning?	**An arborist is a trained tree-care specialist. The phrase "a trained tree-care specialist" explains the word.**
3	In paragraph 2, how does the team leader explain what counts as evidence?	**Evidence is what volunteers actually see and describe, not what they guess. Maya's note about holes and brown edges is evidence.**
4	Use the meanings of canopy and transpiration to explain two ways trees may cool an area during a heat wave.	**A canopy can shade sidewalks and lower surface temperatures. Transpiration releases water vapor that evaporates and can cool the air near leaves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the school garden, I saw a butterfly land on a purple flower. My observation is evidence that the garden attracts insects. The butterfly used its proboscis, a long tube-like mouthpart, to drink nectar.

Accept context-clue explanations that match the passage, even if students use different supporting details. For Part 3, accept any accurate three-sentence response that uses all three vocabulary types and clearly explains the specialized word through context.