Reef Word Detectives

Use context clues and word parts to unlock meaning.

6.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 three words whose meanings you can figure out from the passage. Circle nearby context clues for each word, then box one helpful prefix or suffix.

Repairing a Coral Reef

1. Along Florida's coast, some coral reefs have been damaged by warm water, storms, and disease. To help, scientists grow small pieces of healthy coral in underwater nurseries. Later, divers attach the pieces to bare reef rock. This restoration work can increase the number of living corals in an area. A reef is not simply a pile of stone. It is a busy habitat where fish, crabs, and other animals find food and shelter throughout the day.

2. Before choosing a site, the team evaluates water temperature, waves, and signs of disease. They also record which fish live nearby. These observations help the team decide whether young corals are likely to survive. If a location has cloudy water or strong waves that break coral branches, it may be unsuitable. Scientists compare several locations instead of guessing. Their evidence supports a careful decision about where the new corals should be placed over many months of study.

3. After planting corals, divers return regularly to monitor reef health. To monitor is not a one-time glance. The divers count surviving corals, photograph changes, and remove algae that can cover young colonies. They may relocate a coral if evidence shows it is struggling. For example, a coral that survives in one spot may struggle in another. By collecting data over time, the team can improve future restoration efforts and protect more of the reef community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 2, what does evaluates most likely mean? Give two details from the paragraph that helped you decide.

2. What does unsuitable mean in paragraph 2? Which context clues support your answer?

3. What does monitor mean in paragraph 3? Explain how the divers monitor the reef.

4. The word restoration begins with the prefix re-. What does re- suggest about the restoration work? Use a passage detail to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about helping a habitat. Use a word that begins with re- and give context clues that show what the word means.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Word Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.P.EICC.3.g

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words whose meanings you can figure out from the passage. Circle nearby context clues for each word, then box one helpful prefix or suffix. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 2, what does evaluates most likely mean? Give two details from the paragraph that helped you decide.	**Evaluates means examines and judges carefully. The team checks water temperature, waves, and disease, then decides whether young corals are likely to survive.**
2	What does unsuitable mean in paragraph 2? Which context clues support your answer?	**Unsuitable means not a good or safe place for the corals. Cloudy water and strong waves that break coral branches are clues.**
3	What does monitor mean in paragraph 3? Explain how the divers monitor the reef.	**Monitor means watch or check regularly over time. The divers count corals, photograph changes, and remove algae.**
4	The word restoration begins with the prefix re-. What does re- suggest about the restoration work? Use a passage detail to support your answer.	**Re- suggests bringing something back or repairing it. Scientists grow healthy coral pieces and attach them to damaged, bare reef rock.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Volunteers replant native grasses along a muddy riverbank. They put the grasses back into the soil after a flood washed them away, so replant means to plant again.

Accept reasonable meanings when students support them with relevant context clues from the passage. For Part 3, accept two sentences that use a re- word and include clues that make the word's meaning clear.