Precision Protects History

Precise vocabulary helps museum staff describe artifacts accurately.

7.L.V.1.b "Use grade-level general, academic, and disciplinary vocabulary to communicate clearly and precisely in a variety of settings. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three disciplinary terms, circle two academic words, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside definitions or explanations that make one of those terms clear. Marking these words shows how precise vocabulary helps readers understand the map's condition and care.

Saving a Historic Map

1. At the city museum, a conservator prepares to examine a faded map from 1849. Unlike a restorer, who may repair missing parts, a conservator works to slow damage and preserve evidence. She first records the map's condition, including tears, stains, and brittle edges. This careful documentation creates a baseline, or starting record, for later comparisons. The map is not simply old paper. It is a primary source that can show how people understood roads, rivers, and boundaries in the past.

2. Before treatment begins, the conservator analyzes the map's materials. She uses a microscope to inspect paper fibers and a small tool to measure acidity. High acidity can weaken paper over time, so the museum may place the map in an acid-free folder. The conservator also considers provenance, the record of an object's ownership and history. Provenance helps the museum verify where the map came from and decide how it should be described. These terms help staff members communicate exact information, not vague guesses, when they discuss the artifact.

3. After the examination, the conservator writes a condition report. The report states that the map has a crease near its lower corner and light fading along one edge. Instead of saying the map is "in bad shape," she identifies observable details. She recommends humidification, a controlled process that adds moisture to relax creases, before the map is flattened. Her precise language lets another trained worker understand the evidence, evaluate the recommendation, and continue the work safely. Clear vocabulary matters because a careless treatment could erase clues about the map's history.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What precise meaning does the writer give for the academic term baseline?

2. Copy the precise description of the map's condition from paragraph 3. Why is it clearer than saying the map is "in bad shape"?

3. What does the disciplinary term provenance mean in the passage?

4. Which academic verb in paragraph 3 means to judge a recommendation? What must the trained worker do?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum receives a 1920s photograph with curled edges and a name written on the back. Write exactly two sentences for a condition report. Use at least two words from this list: condition, evidence, provenance, analyze, recommend, and include two observable details.

ANSWER KEY

Precision Protects History

GRADE 7 · 7.L.V.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three disciplinary terms, circle two academic words, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside definitions or explanations that make one of those terms clear. Marking these words shows how precise vocabulary helps readers understand the map's condition and care. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What precise meaning does the writer give for the academic term baseline?	**A starting record for later comparisons.**
2	Copy the precise description of the map's condition from paragraph 3. Why is it clearer than saying the map is "in bad shape"?	**"The map has a crease near its lower corner and light fading along one edge." It is clearer because it names observable details.**
3	What does the disciplinary term provenance mean in the passage?	**The record of an object's ownership and history.**
4	Which academic verb in paragraph 3 means to judge a recommendation? What must the trained worker do?	**Evaluate. The worker must judge the recommendation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The photograph's condition includes curled edges and a name written in blue ink on the back. I recommend that staff analyze its provenance before they place it in an acid-free folder.

Accept two-sentence reports that include at least two listed vocabulary words and two observable details. Students may use accurate conservation vocabulary beyond the list if their wording is clear and precise.