Reef Word Detectives

Use context clues and word parts to unlock academic vocabulary.

9.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 infer from the passage. Circle nearby context clues for each word, and write a 1 beside a helpful prefix, root, or suffix in two of the words.

Rebuilding a Reef

1. Along Florida's coast, some scientists are rebuilding damaged coral reefs with small underwater nurseries. They attach living coral fragments to frames made of PVC pipe, where the pieces can grow without being buried by sand. After several months, divers transplant the strongest fragments onto bare sections of reef. In this process, transplant does not mean moving a plant into soil. It means carefully moving a living organism from one place to another so it can continue growing. The new corals provide shelter for fish and other animals.

2. Restoration teams also study which corals are most resilient. A resilient coral can recover after stress, such as unusually warm water or a powerful storm. Researchers measure survival, growth, and bleaching, a condition in which corals lose the algae that help feed them. These observations are data, or recorded information used to answer questions. By comparing data from many sites, scientists can identify colonies that may be better suited to changing conditions. This evidence does not guarantee that a reef will survive, but it helps teams make informed choices about which corals to grow and where to place them.

3. Before divers return to a restored reef, they complete a survey of the area. A survey is a systematic examination, meaning that the team follows the same planned steps each time. Divers record the number and kinds of fish, photograph the corals, and note any damage. Repeated surveys allow scientists to monitor change over time rather than rely on a single visit. If fish populations increase and young corals remain alive, the project may be succeeding. However, scientists must consider other factors, including water quality and storms, before claiming that the restoration alone caused the changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does transplant mean? Name one context clue that supports your answer.

2. What does resilient mean in paragraph 2? Explain how the sentence after the word helps you infer its meaning.

3. In paragraph 2, what does evidence mean? Use the description of data and the surrounding details to explain.

4. What does systematic mean in paragraph 3? Explain how the root word system and one context clue support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence mini-passage about a community project. Include one academic word with a useful prefix, root, or suffix and enough context for a reader to infer its meaning. After your passage, state the word's likely meaning and name the word part that helped you infer it.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Word Detectives

GRADE 9 · 9.P.EICC.3.g

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words whose meanings you can infer from the passage. Circle nearby context clues for each word, and write a 1 beside a helpful prefix, root, or suffix in two of the words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does transplant mean? Name one context clue that supports your answer.	**Transplant means to move a living organism from one place to another so it can keep growing. A supporting clue is "moving a living organism from one place to another."**
2	What does resilient mean in paragraph 2? Explain how the sentence after the word helps you infer its meaning.	**Resilient means able to recover after difficulty or stress. The next sentence says a resilient coral can recover after warm water or a powerful storm.**
3	In paragraph 2, what does evidence mean? Use the description of data and the surrounding details to explain.	**Evidence means information that supports a conclusion or decision. Scientists compare recorded data from many sites to make informed choices.**
4	What does systematic mean in paragraph 3? Explain how the root word system and one context clue support your answer.	**Systematic means organized and done according to a planned method. The root system suggests connected order, and the passage says the team follows the same planned steps each time.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library began a reusable-bag program to reduce the number of plastic bags sent to landfills. This sustainable plan can continue for years because residents return the bags after each use. Sustainable means able to continue without using up resources, and the suffix -able means capable of being.

Accept equivalent meanings when students support them with accurate context clues from the passage. For the open task, accept any accurate word-part analysis and a meaning that fits the student's own context.