

Water on the Move

Precise vocabulary in an explanation of Roman aqueducts.

L6-8WHST2.d "Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each domain-specific word or phrase that names an aqueduct structure, engineering feature, or maintenance task. These precise terms explain how the system worked more clearly than general words such as thing or place.

How Roman Aqueducts Supplied Water

- ① Roman aqueducts were engineered systems that carried fresh water to cities. Engineers chose a source, often a spring in the hills, and built a covered channel toward town. The channel followed a gentle gradient, or downhill slope, so gravity kept water moving without pumps. Although arches are famous, many aqueduct sections ran underground. Workers used stone, brick, and waterproof mortar to keep the channel stable and limit leaks along its route. Before construction, surveyors measured elevations to plan a route that avoided steep drops and protected the flow.
- ② Near the city, water entered a settling basin called a sedimentation tank. In this basin, sand and other heavy particles sank to the bottom before the water continued. The cleaner supply then reached a distribution tank, where separate outlets directed water to public fountains, baths, and some homes. These structures did not make water completely safe by modern standards, but settling removed visible material. A network of pipes and channels carried the supply to different parts of the city.
- ③ An aqueduct was more than a single bridge. It was public infrastructure, meaning a system built for a community's use. Officials inspected channels, while maintenance crews removed mineral deposits and repaired cracks in the mortar. Access shafts let workers reach underground sections. By using precise routes, controlled slopes, and regular repairs, Romans supplied large populations with water for drinking, washing, and public baths. The system also shows a limit: an aqueduct depended on its source and could be damaged by earthquakes, warfare, or neglect.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which word in paragraph 1 precisely names the downhill slope that kept water moving?

2 Paragraph 2 uses the term sedimentation tank. What happened in this structure? Include the precise action word from the passage.

3 Which term names the structure that sent water toward fountains, baths, and homes? What did its outlets do?

4 What domain-specific phrase in paragraph 3 means a system built for a community's use? Give two precise maintenance details from the same paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Using information from the passage, write exactly two sentences, 40 to 60 words total, explaining how an aqueduct delivered cleaner water to a city. Use at least three terms from this list: source, channel, gradient, sedimentation tank, distribution tank, infrastructure.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each domain-specific word or phrase that names an aqueduct structure, engineering feature, or maintenance task. These precise terms explain how the system worked more clearly than general words such as thing or place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which word in paragraph 1 precisely names the downhill slope that kept water moving?	gradient
2	Paragraph 2 uses the term sedimentation tank. What happened in this structure? Include the precise action word from the passage.	Sand and other heavy particles sank to the bottom before the water continued.
3	Which term names the structure that sent water toward fountains, baths, and homes? What did its outlets do?	A distribution tank. Its separate outlets directed water to public fountains, baths, and some homes.
4	What domain-specific phrase in paragraph 3 means a system built for a community's use? Give two precise maintenance details from the same paragraph.	Public infrastructure. Maintenance crews removed mineral deposits and repaired cracks in the mortar; access shafts let workers reach underground sections.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Engineers directed water from a spring source through a channel with a gentle gradient, so it could travel steadily toward the city. At a sedimentation tank, heavy particles settled before the cleaner water reached a distribution tank, an important part of Rome's infrastructure.

For the marking task, accept relevant domain-specific terms and phrases such as source, channel, gradient, mortar, sedimentation tank, distribution tank, infrastructure, mineral deposits, and access shafts. For the open response, check for exactly two sentences, 40 to 60 words, at least three listed terms, and an accurate explanation based on the passage.