Tide Pool Paragraphs

See how each paragraph begins, develops, and wraps up an idea.

4.W.2.b "Provide supporting paragraphs with topic and summary sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each paragraph's topic sentence and circle its summary sentence. In paragraph 2, number the two middle sentences that support its topic sentence.

A Tide Pool Changes

1. A tide pool is a small pocket of seawater left among rocks when the tide goes out. As the ocean moves away, water stays in low places along the shore. Sunlight can warm this trapped water, and some water may slowly evaporate into the air. For a while, the pool is a tiny patch of ocean surrounded by exposed rock.

2. Animals in a tide pool have ways to stay safe while the ocean is out. A sea anemone can pull its soft tentacles inward, which helps keep them from drying in the air. A limpet, a sea snail, holds tightly to rock with its strong foot when waves splash nearby. These animals use their bodies to handle the tide pool's changing conditions.

3. When the tide rises, fresh seawater flows into tide pools again. This new water can bring tiny bits of food to animals that catch food from the water. It also covers rocks that were dry for hours, giving some sea creatures more room to move. As the water returns, the little pool becomes connected to the ocean once more.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the topic sentence of paragraph 1? What does it tell you the paragraph will explain?

2. How does each of the two middle sentences in paragraph 2 support its topic sentence?

3. Which sentence summarizes paragraph 3? How does it bring the details together?

4. How does the last sentence of paragraph 2 connect back to its topic sentence? Use one middle detail in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a routine you know well. Write one paragraph with a topic sentence, two sentences that give specific supporting details, and a summary sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Tide Pool Paragraphs

GRADE 4 · 4.W.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each paragraph's topic sentence and circle its summary sentence. In paragraph 2, number the two middle sentences that support its topic sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the topic sentence of paragraph 1? What does it tell you the paragraph will explain?	**The first sentence is the topic sentence. It tells readers the paragraph will explain what a tide pool is and how it forms when the tide goes out.**
2	How does each of the two middle sentences in paragraph 2 support its topic sentence?	**The anemone pulls in its tentacles to help keep them from drying. The limpet holds tightly to rock when waves splash. Both are ways animals stay safe.**
3	Which sentence summarizes paragraph 3? How does it bring the details together?	**The last sentence summarizes paragraph 3. It brings together the details about returning seawater by saying the pool becomes connected to the ocean again.**
4	How does the last sentence of paragraph 2 connect back to its topic sentence? Use one middle detail in your answer.	**Both sentences describe how tide pool animals handle changing conditions. For example, the anemone pulls in its tentacles to help keep them from drying.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Packing my backpack the night before helps me get ready for school. I put my reading book and homework folder in the main pocket. Then I check my class list and add the pencils and notebook I will need. With my supplies in one place, I can leave for school prepared.

For the marking job, accept only the first and last sentences of each paragraph as the topic and summary sentences. The two middle sentences of paragraph 2 are both supporting details, and students may number them in either order.