Clues in the Creek

Use nearby words and headings to unlock meaning.

5.RC.11 "Select and apply context clues (e.g., word, phrase,sentence, and paragraph clues) and text features to determine the meanings of unknown words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle *brackish*, *porous*, *recede*, and *refuge*, then underline a clue for each word, including a heading if it helps.

A Creek in the Salt Marsh

1. **Between Two Waters** At the edge of a salt marsh, a creek carries fresh water toward the sea. On a rising tide, seawater pushes into the creek. Where the two waters mix, the creek becomes brackish. It does not taste as salty as the ocean, but it is not fresh enough to drink. Small fish swim between the grass stems as the water rises.

2. **Sand with Spaces** Along the creek, a strip of porous sand lets water slip through gaps between its grains. After a wave washes over it, the surface soon looks dry, but damp sand lies below. A fiddler crab digs a tunnel there. Its burrow stays moist even on a hot afternoon. Nearby grass roots help hold the sandy bank in place when water rushes past.

3. **A Safe Place at Low Tide** Hours later, the tide begins to recede. Water pulls away from the grass and leaves shiny trails on the sand. For young fish, the flooded marsh was a refuge from larger fish that hunted in open water. As the water drains, the young fish follow the creek toward deeper pools. Crabs remain near their burrows, ready for the next tide.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does *brackish* mean? How do the first heading and the paragraph help you know?

2. What does *porous* tell you about the sand? Give a phrase from the paragraph that helps.

3. What does *recede* mean? Which nearby sentence helps you figure it out?

4. Why is *refuge* a good word for the flooded marsh? Use the final heading and a detail from the paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal other than a crab using the word *burrow*. Add a clue that shows what *burrow* means, and underline your clue.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in the Creek

GRADE 5 · 5.RC.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle *brackish*, *porous*, *recede*, and *refuge*, then underline a clue for each word, including a heading if it helps. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does *brackish* mean? How do the first heading and the paragraph help you know?	**It means a mix of fresh and salty water. The heading says the creek is between two waters, and the paragraph says fresh water and seawater mix.**
2	What does *porous* tell you about the sand? Give a phrase from the paragraph that helps.	**The sand has spaces that let water pass through it. The phrase "water slip through gaps between its grains" is a clue.**
3	What does *recede* mean? Which nearby sentence helps you figure it out?	**It means to move back or away. The next sentence says, "Water pulls away from the grass."**
4	Why is *refuge* a good word for the flooded marsh? Use the final heading and a detail from the paragraph.	**A refuge is a safe place. The heading calls the marsh a safe place, and the paragraph says it keeps young fish away from larger fish that hunt in open water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A rabbit darted into its burrow when a hawk flew over the field. It hid in the tunnel beneath the ground until the sky was clear.

Accept equivalent meanings supported by the named clues. For Part 3, look for two original sentences about a non-crab animal, an accurate use of *burrow*, and an underlined clue to its meaning.