Creek Word Detective

Use dictionary entries to choose precise meanings and pronunciations.

L.6.4.c "Consult print and digital reference materials to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the four words Nia checks in the creek scene. For each word, circle the numbered dictionary meaning that fits, then box the capitalized part of its pronunciation.

Nia's Creek Notes

1. After a storm, Nia follows the creek behind her school. She stops at the bank, where wet soil has slid toward the water. A leaf moves quickly with the current, though the water looks calm near the edge. Nia wants to describe what she sees without confusing readers. In her field notebook, she copies two entries from a print dictionary. Bank (BANK), noun: 1. Land along a river or stream. 2. A place that keeps people's money. Current (KUR-uhnt), noun: 1. The present time. 2. A steady flow of water.

2. Farther downstream, the creek slows around a bend. Bits of sand settle on the bottom, and Nia watches the water deposit more grains beside a fallen branch. A narrow channel carries some of the water past the branch, while the rest spreads across the muddy ground. Nia checks a digital dictionary on her tablet and copies two more entries. Deposit (dih-POZ-it), verb: 1. Put money in an account. 2. Leave material in a place. Channel (CHAN-uhl), noun: 1. A path for flowing water. 2. A television station.

3. On the walk back, Nia notices that the same word can lead a reader in different directions. She keeps the numbered meanings in her notebook instead of copying only the first one. She also writes each pronunciation beside its word. In the guide she used, capital letters show the part said with the most force, and hyphens divide the spoken parts. Later, when Nia writes her creek report, she can check each word against both the scene and the entry she copied.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which numbered meaning of bank fits Nia's creek notes? Copy its pronunciation from the print dictionary entry.

2. Which numbered meaning of current fits the moving leaf? Which part of the word is said with the most force?

3. Which numbered meaning of deposit fits the sand? Which part of the word is said with the most force?

4. Which numbered meaning of channel fits the water near the branch? How is that meaning different from the creek meaning of bank?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a word not in the passage that could describe a rainy scene. Consult a print or digital dictionary, then record the word, the type of dictionary you used, its pronunciation, the precise meaning that fits, and one original sentence using it.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Word Detective

GRADE 6 · L.6.4.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the four words Nia checks in the creek scene. For each word, circle the numbered dictionary meaning that fits, then box the capitalized part of its pronunciation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which numbered meaning of bank fits Nia's creek notes? Copy its pronunciation from the print dictionary entry.	**Meaning 1, land along a river or stream. Pronunciation: BANK.**
2	Which numbered meaning of current fits the moving leaf? Which part of the word is said with the most force?	**Meaning 2, a steady flow of water. KUR is said with the most force.**
3	Which numbered meaning of deposit fits the sand? Which part of the word is said with the most force?	**Meaning 2, leave material in a place. POZ is said with the most force.**
4	Which numbered meaning of channel fits the water near the branch? How is that meaning different from the creek meaning of bank?	**Channel means a path for flowing water, meaning 1. Bank means land along the creek, not a path the water follows.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Word: drizzle. Dictionary: digital. Pronunciation: DRIZ-uhl. Meaning: light rain falling in fine drops. Sentence: A drizzle dotted my jacket as I walked home.

For the marking job, accept underlined words in the creek scene, circled meanings 1, 2, 2, 1, and boxed pronunciation parts BANK, KUR, POZ, and CHAN. For Your Turn, accept a different word if the reported pronunciation and meaning match a print or digital dictionary entry and the sentence uses that meaning.