Reef Detectives

Find the ideas beneath the details

RI.4.2 "Analyze how the central ideas are reflected in a text, and cite relevant implicit and explicit evidence from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how reefs help living things, and circle one detail that shows how people help reefs. These details are evidence for the passage's central ideas.

A Reef Made of Oysters

1. An oyster may look like a plain rock, but many oysters together build a busy reef. Young oysters attach to hard surfaces, often the shells of older oysters. As more grow, the pile becomes a home with cracks and hiding places. Small fish and crabs shelter there from larger animals. A reef is more than a group of oysters. It is a living neighborhood under the water.

2. Oysters also help the water around them. As an oyster feeds, it pulls in water and traps tiny bits of food. It sends cleaner water back out. When many oysters feed in one area, more sunlight can reach underwater plants. Those plants give small animals places to hide. Reef piles can also slow waves before they hit a shore, helping keep soil in place.

3. Oyster reefs face trouble when pollution, disease, or dredging harms them. In some places, people return empty oyster shells to the water. Young oysters can settle on those shells and begin new reefs. Workers choose spots where the water is suitable for oysters to grow. Rebuilding a reef takes time, but the new shells give oysters a place to start and other animals a chance to return.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is one central idea about oyster reefs? Give one detail from paragraph 1 that supports it.

2. How does paragraph 2 show that oyster reefs help their surroundings? Use one detail about water and one about shorelines.

3. Why might people put empty oyster shells in the water? Support your answer with two details from paragraph 3.

4. How do paragraphs 1 and 3 together show that rebuilding reefs can help animals other than oysters? Use a detail from each paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is deciding whether to protect an oyster reef near its shore. Write a short recommendation that states your decision, uses two details from different paragraphs as evidence, and explains what could happen if the reef were lost.

ANSWER KEY # Reef Detectives

GRADE 4 · RI.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how reefs help living things, and circle one detail that shows how people help reefs. These details are evidence for the passage's central ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one central idea about oyster reefs? Give one detail from paragraph 1 that supports it.	**Oyster reefs provide shelter for animals. Paragraph 1 says small fish and crabs hide in the reef from larger animals.**
2	How does paragraph 2 show that oyster reefs help their surroundings? Use one detail about water and one about shorelines.	**Oysters send cleaner water back out as they feed, and reef piles slow waves before they reach a shore.**
3	Why might people put empty oyster shells in the water? Support your answer with two details from paragraph 3.	**The shells give young oysters a place to settle. Those oysters can begin new reefs.**
4	How do paragraphs 1 and 3 together show that rebuilding reefs can help animals other than oysters? Use a detail from each paragraph.	**Paragraph 1 says small fish and crabs shelter in reefs. Paragraph 3 says that when people help new reefs grow, other animals have a chance to return.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town should protect the oyster reef near its shore. Paragraph 1 says small fish and crabs hide in its cracks. Paragraph 2 says reef piles can slow waves before they reach a shore. If the reef were lost, animals could lose shelter and waves might wash away more soil.

Accept other central ideas and inferences when students support them with relevant passage details. For Part 3, look for evidence from two different paragraphs and a reasonable prediction about losing the reef.