Words on Display

Use reference entries to write an accurate museum label.

L.11-12.4.c "Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses) both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the reference evidence for the pronunciation of *facsimile*, the origin of *ephemeral*, the meaning of *conservation*, and the part of speech of *accession*. Label each underline P, O, M, or S.

The Playbill Label

1. Before a city museum opens an exhibit about a vanished theater, its staff must write labels that visitors can trust. A single unfamiliar word may describe an object's age, its treatment, or the kind of copy on display. A general dictionary can show pronunciation, part of speech, and several meanings. A museum glossary can narrow a term to its use in collections. To check an entry, match its wording to the sentence you are writing. For example, a dictionary gives *pitch* meanings related to sound and to throwing. A sentence about a singer points toward sound, not a baseball throw.

2. On her desk, Mara keeps two short reference notes while she drafts a label for an old playbill. Her general dictionary prints *facsimile* as "fak-SIM-uh-lee" and calls it a noun meaning an exact copy, especially of a document. The original playbill is too fragile to hang under the gallery lights, so the label will identify the displayed sheet as a facsimile. Another entry gives *ephemeral* as an adjective meaning short-lived. Its word-history note traces it through Latin to Greek *ephēmeros*, meaning "lasting only a day." Mara uses the adjective to describe paper advertisements meant to be discarded.

3. A museum collections glossary supplies two more notes for Mara's label. It lists *conservation* as care that slows damage to an object and *restoration* as work that attempts to return an object to an earlier appearance. The theater's curtain has faded, and staff plan to stabilize its fibers without repainting them. A separate dictionary entry labels *accession* as both a noun and a verb: as a noun, it means an item officially added to a collection; as a verb, it means to register an item in that collection. Mara writes, "The museum will accession the donated ticket stubs before the exhibit opens."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should a visitor pronounce *facsimile*, and which syllable is stressed?

2. According to the word-history note, which Greek word lies behind *ephemeral*, and what does it mean?

3. Does the planned work on the curtain fit the glossary entry for *conservation* or *restoration*? Explain using the entry's distinction.

4. In Mara's sentence about the ticket stubs, what part of speech is *accession*? How do the entry and sentence show this?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the museum receives a handwritten diary. Consult a print or digital dictionary or museum glossary for a word not used in the passage that you might put on its label. In three or four sentences, name the word and source, report its part of speech and precise meaning, and use it in a new label sentence.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the reference evidence for the pronunciation of *facsimile*, the origin of *ephemeral*, the meaning of *conservation*, and the part of speech of *accession*. Label each underline P, O, M, or S. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How should a visitor pronounce *facsimile*, and which syllable is stressed?	**Fak-SIM-uh-lee, with stress on SIM.**
2	According to the word-history note, which Greek word lies behind *ephemeral*, and what does it mean?	***Ephēmeros*, meaning "lasting only a day."**
3	Does the planned work on the curtain fit the glossary entry for *conservation* or *restoration*? Explain using the entry's distinction.	**Conservation. Stabilizing the fibers slows damage; the staff do not plan to repaint the curtain to restore an earlier appearance.**
4	In Mara's sentence about the ticket stubs, what part of speech is *accession*? How do the entry and sentence show this?	**It is a verb. The entry defines the verb as registering an item in the collection, which is what the museum will do.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I consulted Merriam-Webster's online dictionary for *legible*. It lists the word as an adjective meaning capable of being read or deciphered. My label would say, "Despite its faded ink, much of the diary remains legible."

Accept equivalent pronunciations that stress the second syllable and responses that accurately apply the cited entries. For Your Turn, check that the chosen word is new, the named source supports both reported details, and the label uses the word correctly.