

Wetland Word Hunt

Use context to unlock science words and figurative phrases.

4R4 "Determine the meaning of words, phrases, figurative language, academic, and content-specific words. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words **dam**, **sediment**, and **erosion**, then underline exactly two phrases that describe one thing as another thing.

Beavers Build Wetlands

- ① At the edge of a forest, beavers can change a small stream into a wetland. They pile branches, mud, and stones across moving water to build a dam. Water slows and spreads behind it, making shallow pools. The new wetland is a busy apartment building for frogs, ducks, insects, and fish. A dam may look messy, but it changes where water can travel.
- ② Slow water drops bits of soil and sand called sediment onto the pond bottom. Plants grow in the calmer water, and animals find food and shelter there. This place, where an animal gets what it needs to live, is its habitat. The dam is a shield for the pond, holding back fast water that could wash soil away.
- ③ During heavy rain, water may rush around or over a dam. Fast water can cause erosion, which happens when soil is carried away. Beavers often repair weak spots by adding more materials. Scientists study these changes because wetlands can store water after storms. Evidence from a wetland helps scientists explain how animals and water affect one another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does the phrase “a busy apartment building” mean in the first paragraph?

2 What does “a shield for the pond” mean?

3 What does **sediment** mean? Use details from the passage.

4 In the last paragraph, what does **evidence** mean?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write three sentences about a pond or stream. Use at least one science word and enough nearby words to show what it means. Include one figurative phrase that describes water or an animal as something else.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the words **dam**, **sediment**, and **erosion**, then underline exactly two phrases that describe one thing as another thing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase “a busy apartment building” mean in the first paragraph?	The wetland provides places for many kinds of animals to live.
2	What does “a shield for the pond” mean?	The dam protects the pond by holding back fast water that could wash soil away.
3	What does sediment mean? Use details from the passage.	Sediment is bits of soil and sand that settle onto the pond bottom.
4	In the last paragraph, what does evidence mean?	Evidence means facts or observations that help scientists explain something.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At sunset, the pond was a silver mirror. A turtle paddled along the shore, the land beside the water. The current, or moving water, carried a leaf past the turtle.

Accept equivalent explanations of the two figurative phrases and word meanings when supported by passage details. In Part 3, accept any three-sentence response with a science word explained by context and a clear figurative phrase.