

Reef Word Detectives

Use context clues to understand academic and science vocabulary.

6L6 "Acquire and accurately use general academic and content-specific words and phrases; apply vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle four words that name a science action or process, then underline nearby words that help explain each circled word.

Rebuilding a Reef

- ① Along Florida's coast, scientists are working to restore coral reefs, structures built by colonies of tiny animals with hard skeletons. Reefs provide shelter for fish and soften strong waves before they reach shore. However, warm water, disease, and storms can damage corals. During a survey, divers record which coral colonies are healthy and which are broken or pale. This careful count gives researchers evidence about where a reef has declined and where restoration may help the most.
- ② One method uses coral fragments, small pieces that can grow into new colonies. Divers collect fragments that have naturally broken off, so they do not injure a healthy colony. In an underwater nursery, the fragments are attached to frames and given room to grow. Later, workers transplant, or move, the young corals onto bare reef surfaces. They fasten each coral securely because waves or grazing animals could easily dislodge a loose fragment from its place.
- ③ Restoration teams monitor the transplanted corals for months or years. They measure survival, growth, and signs of bleaching, a stress response that can make coral lose color. The results help teams evaluate their methods. For example, if corals on one frame grow slowly, a team might investigate whether sediment is blocking sunlight or whether fish are eating the coral. Monitoring does not guarantee success, but it helps researchers revise plans using observed results rather than guesses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 In paragraph 1, what does *declined* mean? Give one detail from the paragraph that helped you figure it out.

2 How do the words “or move” help you understand the meaning of *transplant* in paragraph 2?

3 What does *monitor* mean in paragraph 3? Name two things restoration teams do when they monitor corals.

4 Which word in paragraph 3 means “change plans after using what was learned”? Explain how the last sentence supports your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences about studying a school garden. Use *monitor* and *evidence* accurately, and include a clue in your sentences that shows what each word means.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle four words that name a science action or process, then underline nearby words that help explain each circled word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does <i>declined</i> mean? Give one detail from the paragraph that helped you figure it out.	Declined means became worse or decreased. Details such as corals being damaged, broken, or pale support this meaning.
2	How do the words “or move” help you understand the meaning of <i>transplant</i> in paragraph 2?	They show that transplant means to move the young corals to a new place on the reef.
3	What does <i>monitor</i> mean in paragraph 3? Name two things restoration teams do when they monitor corals.	Monitor means to watch or check over time. Teams measure survival, growth, and signs of bleaching.
4	Which word in paragraph 3 means “change plans after using what was learned”? Explain how the last sentence supports your answer.	Revise means change plans. The last sentence says researchers revise plans using observed results rather than guesses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class will monitor the bean plants by checking their height each Friday. The measurements and photos are evidence, facts that show whether the plants are growing. We will use this information to decide if the plants need more water.

Accept equivalent definitions supported by passage details. For the open response, check that all three sentences are present, both words are used accurately, and context clues reveal each word's meaning.