Marsh Word Detective

Use a field glossary to understand a coastal marsh.

5.4.R.4 "Students will consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses) to comprehend the words in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the five bold words in the first two paragraphs. Circle each word's meaning in the field glossary.

Nia at the Marsh

1. At the edge of a coastal marsh, Nia stepped from a wooden path onto a viewing deck. The air smelled salty, but a stream of fresh water also reached the marsh. Nia dipped a test strip into the **brackish** water and watched the color change. Near the bank, she noticed a cloudy swirl of **sediment** after a small wave rolled in.

2. Farther down the path, a patch of bare mud showed signs of **erosion**. Each wave carried a little soil away from the bank. Nia spotted a crab beneath the reeds and called the marsh its **habitat**. The thick reeds seemed to **filter** bits of floating debris from the water. Nia wondered how the bank and the crab might change if the reeds disappeared.

3. Before leaving, Nia checked the field glossary on her notebook cover. It helped her choose precise meanings instead of guessing from a single clue. Field glossary: habitat, a place where a living thing makes its home; filter, to trap material while letting water pass; sediment, small pieces of soil or rock carried by water; brackish, slightly salty from mixed fresh and salt water; erosion, the wearing away of land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the field glossary to explain what *brackish* tells you about the water Nia tested.

2. Look up *sediment* in the field glossary. What was swirling near the bank?

3. Use the field glossary to explain why the waves cause *erosion* at the bank.

4. Use the field glossary to explain why the marsh is a *habitat* for the crab.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a different place where water moves. Write two sentences about it: use the glossary word that the questions did not ask about, then explain how the glossary helped you use that word.

ANSWER KEY

Marsh Word Detective

GRADE 5 · 5.4.R.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the five bold words in the first two paragraphs. Circle each word's meaning in the field glossary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the field glossary to explain what *brackish* tells you about the water Nia tested.	**The water is slightly salty because fresh water and salt water mix there.**
2	Look up *sediment* in the field glossary. What was swirling near the bank?	**Small pieces of soil or rock carried by the water were swirling near the bank.**
3	Use the field glossary to explain why the waves cause *erosion* at the bank.	**The waves wear away the bank by carrying soil away.**
4	Use the field glossary to explain why the marsh is a *habitat* for the crab.	**The marsh is a place where the crab lives.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A screen over a street drain can filter leaves out of rainwater. The glossary helped me use filter because the screen traps leaves while letting water pass.

Accept answers that use the glossary meaning and connect it to the passage. For Your Turn, the word is filter, and the two sentences should describe another place where water moves and explain its use.