Marks at Low Tide

Notice how end marks help a reader follow a story.

6.5.W.5 "Students will write using correct end mark mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each question mark, circle each exclamation point, and box each period that ends a sentence to show how the writer closes different kinds of sentences.

The Tide Pool Notebook

1 At low tide, my cousin Lena and I stepped onto the rocky shore with a notebook. The wet stones shone like polished glass, so we walked slowly. What might be hiding in the shallow pools? Lena pointed to a patch of seaweed that moved even though the wind had stopped. Something was under there! I leaned closer and saw two tiny eyes above the water. A crab slipped out from the seaweed, then vanished beneath a flat rock before I could sketch it.

2 The crab was not the only animal in the pool. A purple sea anemone clung to the side of a rock, its short tentacles waving in the water. How could such a soft animal stay put when waves rolled in? Its base held tightly to the stone. Nearby, several barnacles stayed shut until water washed over them. Then their tiny feathery legs reached out to catch food. Their tiny legs moved so fast! Lena counted the barnacles while I drew the anemone in my notebook.

3 Lena checked the tide chart in her pocket. The tide would return in less than an hour. Should we take the crab home to watch it longer? We left it in the pool, where it could stay in its usual habitat. A wave splashed over my shoes, and I jumped back. That was cold! We headed up the beach without lifting any rocks or taking any animals. On the path, I added one last note to my notebook: a tide pool changes as the water comes and goes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the question in paragraph 1. What end mark does it need?

2. Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that shows amazement at the barnacles. Explain why its end mark fits.

3. Change "The tide would return in less than an hour." into a question that asks whether the tide would return in less than an hour.

4. Copy the final sentence of the passage. Why does it end with a period?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about finding an unusual object on a walk. Write a statement, a question, an excited sentence, and a final statement, in that order, using the correct end mark for each.

ANSWER KEY

Marks at Low Tide

GRADE 6 · 6.5.W.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each question mark, circle each exclamation point, and box each period that ends a sentence to show how the writer closes different kinds of sentences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the question in paragraph 1. What end mark does it need?	**What might be hiding in the shallow pools? It needs a question mark because it asks something.**
2	Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that shows amazement at the barnacles. Explain why its end mark fits.	**Their tiny legs moved so fast! The exclamation point shows the writer's amazement.**
3	Change "The tide would return in less than an hour." into a question that asks whether the tide would return in less than an hour.	**Would the tide return in less than an hour?**
4	Copy the final sentence of the passage. Why does it end with a period?	**On the path, I added one last note to my notebook: a tide pool changes as the water comes and goes. It ends with a period because it states something rather than asking a question or expressing strong feeling.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A small brass key lay beside the sidewalk. What could it unlock? I spotted a tiny door in the garden wall! I left the key where I found it and told my neighbor.

For the marking job, expect three underlined question marks, three circled exclamation points, and the periods that end sentences boxed. For Your Turn, accept any four original sentences in the requested order with periods, a question mark, and an exclamation point used correctly.