

Museum Word Detectives

Use reference entries to choose meanings that fit.

4.RV.1.I "Use glossaries, beginning dictionaries, and thesauruses, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Use the practice entries below to answer the questions. These print excerpts and printed digital results are classroom examples, not a live website. Check the context before choosing a meaning or related word.

Read and Use the Texts

A. Glossary: printed digital search results

Search: fragile | Result: fragile: easily broken or damaged.

Search: specimen | Result: specimen: an example of something collected for study. Museum example: a rock specimen.

B. Beginning dictionary: print page excerpt

Guidewords: prepare - preview. Guidewords name the first and last entry on this practice page. Entries appear in alphabetical order.

prepare (verb): to make ready.

preserve (verb): 1. to keep safe from harm or change; 2. to treat food so it can be kept for later.

prevent (verb): to stop something from happening.

preview (noun): an early look at something before it is shown in full.

C. Thesaurus: printed digital search result

Search: careful | Related words: cautious, attentive, thorough.

Choose for your meaning: cautious stresses avoiding risk; attentive stresses paying close attention; thorough stresses including all the needed details.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Use A: "Do not squeeze the fragile rock specimen." Explain what BOTH fragile and specimen mean here.

- 2** Use B: "The museum will preserve the old notebook." Which numbered meaning fits, and why? Could preserve appear between these guidewords?

- 3** Use C: "Nia wrote careful notes, including every label and measurement." Which related word best preserves the intended meaning? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Consult the entries again for a new museum task. Explain your choices so another student can follow them.

Use the glossary and dictionary

A curator studies a leaf specimen and wants to preserve it. Explain specimen using A and choose the meaning of preserve from B. Name each tool and explain why that meaning fits.

Use the thesaurus

A visitor takes careful steps around a fragile display to avoid bumping it. Replace careful using C. Name the tool, write the revised sentence and explain your choice.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Use the practice entries below to answer the questions. These print excerpts and printed digital results are classroom examples, not a live website. Check the context before choosing a meaning or related word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use A: "Do not squeeze the fragile rock specimen." Explain what BOTH fragile and specimen mean here.	Fragile means easily broken or damaged. Specimen means an example collected for study; here it is a rock. The instruction means to avoid damaging a rock kept for study.
2	Use B: "The museum will preserve the old notebook." Which numbered meaning fits, and why? Could preserve appear between these guidewords?	Meaning 1 fits because the museum keeps the notebook safe, not food for later. Yes: preserve comes after prepare and before preview alphabetically.
3	Use C: "Nia wrote careful notes, including every label and measurement." Which related word best preserves the intended meaning? Explain.	Thorough best emphasizes including all needed details, matching every label and measurement. Attentive could stress attention, but thorough is the strongest fit for completeness; cautious stresses risk.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Possible glossary and dictionary answer**

The glossary says a specimen is an example collected for study, so this leaf is being studied. The dictionary's first meaning of preserve fits: the curator wants to keep the leaf safe from harm or change, not save it as food.

Possible thesaurus answer

I used the thesaurus: "A visitor takes cautious steps around a fragile display to avoid bumping it." Cautious fits because the visitor is avoiding the risk of damaging the display.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Read the actual entries rather than recalling a character's lookup. In question 1, the target words are fragile and specimen; no extra annotation is needed. The print dictionary order is prepare, preserve, prevent, preview. The glossary and thesaurus are explicitly printed digital-result examples; no internet or outside book is required. This is guided reference-use practice. For transfer with actual digital and print resources, have students repeat a lookup with classroom tools when available. All entries are locally authored practice definitions. Accept equivalent context-supported explanations; words in a thesaurus are not interchangeable in every sentence.