Pond Word Detectives

Use reference tools to choose exact word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4d "Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Locate the entry you need. Underline the words in that entry that support each answer.

Maya's Pond Notes

Maya saw a dragonfly rest on a reed in its pond habitat. Later, the insect hovered above the water. Use the entries to understand her notes.

Short teaching excerpts written for this worksheet. Use a complete print or digital reference for the independent task.

Sample glossary

SAMPLE GLOSSARY

dragonfly An insect with two pairs of wings and large eyes.
habitat The natural home of a plant or animal.
reed A tall, grasslike plant often found in wet ground.

Sample dictionary

SAMPLE DICTIONARY

hover verb: 1. stay in one place in the air; 2. wait nearby.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the glossary to define dragonfly.

2. Use the glossary to define reed.

3. What does habitat mean in these notes?

4. Which dictionary meaning of hover fits the sentence? Explain using a context clue.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one sentence about an animal or place using a key word. Look up the word in a print or digital dictionary, then write the definition you chose and explain how it fits your sentence.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · L.3.4d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Locate the entry you need. Underline the words in that entry that support each answer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the glossary to define dragonfly.	**An insect with two pairs of wings and large eyes.**
2	Use the glossary to define reed.	**A tall grasslike plant often found in wet ground.**
3	What does habitat mean in these notes?	**The natural home of a plant or animal.**
4	Which dictionary meaning of hover fits the sentence? Explain using a context clue.	**Meaning 1; the insect was in the air above the water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sentence: Most bats are nocturnal animals. Dictionary definition: Nocturnal means active at night. This fits because bats usually fly and find food at night.

Accept accurate dictionary definitions stated in the student's own words. The explanation should connect the chosen definition to the student's sentence, not simply name the reference tool. Answers must come from consultation of the printed sample entries. These authored teaching excerpts are not quotations from a commercial dictionary. For the independent task require actual reference use.