Word Detective Notes

Use reference clues to clarify words in an animal article.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4c "Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and 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.

Bats After Dark

Maya reads that little brown bats are nocturnal and rest in a roost. They use echolocation to locate objects. Consult the sample references below.

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

Sample glossary

SAMPLE GLOSSARY

roost A place where birds or bats rest or sleep.

Sample dictionary

SAMPLE DICTIONARY

echolocation ek-oh-loh-KAY-shun; noun: locating objects by making sounds and detecting returning echoes.
nocturnal nok-TUR-nul; adjective: active at night.

Sample thesaurus

SAMPLE THESAURUS

active lively; energetic. Choose according to the sentence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the dictionary to find and say the pronunciation of nocturnal.

2. Use the glossary to explain roost in this animal context.

3. Consult the dictionary. What is echolocation?

4. Which reference section offers possible replacements for active? Why must you check the sentence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a science or social studies word that you are unsure how to say or define. Consult a print or digital dictionary or glossary, then write two sentences that name the word and source, give its pronunciation, and explain its precise meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Word Detective Notes

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 dictionary to find and say the pronunciation of nocturnal.	**nok-TUR-nul.**
2	Use the glossary to explain roost in this animal context.	**A resting or sleeping place for bats or birds.**
3	Consult the dictionary. What is echolocation?	**Locating objects using sounds and their returning echoes.**
4	Which reference section offers possible replacements for active? Why must you check the sentence?	**The thesaurus. Synonyms can differ in precise meaning and may not fit every context.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I looked up erosion in a digital dictionary, which gave the pronunciation “ih-ROH-zhun.” It defined erosion as the process in which wind, water, ice, or gravity moves rock and soil from one place to another.

Accept equivalent pronunciation respellings that clearly match the words in the passage. For the open task, accept any accurate word, named reference source, pronunciation, and precise meaning written in two sentences. 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.