Word Source Detectives

Use reference clues to check spelling and choose exact meanings.

4.L.V.3.d "Use print and digital reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses) to check spelling and determine or clarify the precise meaning of words and phrases. (I)"

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.

Lila's Butterfly Note

Lila writes: "I observed a caterpillar chewing a leaf in its habitat." She wants accurate spelling and a precise verb.

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

Sample glossary

SAMPLE GLOSSARY

habitat The natural home of a plant or animal.

Sample dictionary

SAMPLE DICTIONARY

caterpillar noun: the larval form of a butterfly or moth.

observe verb: watch carefully.

Sample thesaurus

SAMPLE THESAURUS

see notice; observe; watch. These choices are related but not identical.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the dictionary to correct catapillar.

2. Consult the glossary. What does habitat mean?

3. Which dictionary verb means watch carefully?

4. Why does observed fit close study better than saw? Use an entry to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a word from a book or class topic that you want to check. Use a print or digital dictionary, glossary, or thesaurus to check its spelling and precise meaning, then write one sentence using the word. Name your source and write the meaning or a helpful synonym.

ANSWER KEY

Word Source Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.L.V.3.d

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 correct catapillar.	**caterpillar.**
2	Consult the glossary. What does habitat mean?	**The natural home of a plant or animal.**
3	Which dictionary verb means watch carefully?	**observe.**
4	Why does observed fit close study better than saw? Use an entry to explain.	**Observe means watch carefully; saw alone does not establish careful attention.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Word: migrate Source: Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary Meaning: to move from one place to another at a certain time each year. Sentence: In fall, many birds migrate to places with warmer weather.

Accept equivalent wording for the meanings in questions 2 and 4. For question 3, accept observe or observed if the student connects it to watching carefully; the open response should name a reference source, give an accurate meaning or synonym, and use the word correctly in a sentence. 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.