Garden Word Detectives

Use reference tools to check spelling and sharpen word meanings.

5.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.

Labels for the School Garden

Maya labels the school garden. She needs to define compost, correct "perenial," and decide whether mulch precisely names the cover over the soil.

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

Sample glossary

SAMPLE GLOSSARY

compost Decayed organic material used to improve soil.
mulch Material spread over soil to protect it and help retain moisture.

Sample dictionary

SAMPLE DICTIONARY

perennial noun: a plant that lives for more than two years. Spelling: p-e-r-e-n-n-i-a-l.

Sample thesaurus

SAMPLE THESAURUS

cover covering; layer. In a garden, mulch may name a particular kind of protective cover; check its definition.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the glossary to define compost and name your reference.

2. Use the dictionary to correct perenial.

3. Why check a glossary before replacing cover with mulch?

4. What does the glossary say mulch means?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one word or phrase from a book, article, or class assignment that you want to check. Name the print or digital reference material you used, write the correct spelling and precise meaning, then write one revised sentence using the word correctly.

ANSWER KEY # Garden Word Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.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 glossary to define compost and name your reference.	**Decayed organic material used to improve soil; glossary.**
2	Use the dictionary to correct perenial.	**perennial.**
3	Why check a glossary before replacing cover with mulch?	**A related word is not always an exact substitute; check its precise garden meaning.**
4	What does the glossary say mulch means?	**Material spread over soil to protect it and retain moisture.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I checked the digital dictionary for camouflage. It is spelled c-a-m-o-u-f-l-a-g-e and means coloring or a pattern that helps an animal blend into its surroundings. Revised sentence: The stick insect's camouflage made it hard to see among branches.

Accept equivalent precise definitions when they match a reliable reference source. For Part 3, check that the student names a reference material, gives correct spelling and meaning, and uses the word correctly in an original 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.