Source Sleuth

Choose the reference tool that best fits the word task.

7L4.c "Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech."

NAME _____ DATE _____

GENERAL DICTIONARY

Use a general dictionary for common words, standard pronunciations, parts of speech, and everyday meanings. It helps when a word has more than one common meaning.

A dictionary can show that *cautious* is an adjective and give its pronunciation.

SPECIALIZED GLOSSARY

Use a specialized glossary for precise words from a subject, such as science, math, or literature. It explains how experts use the word in that field.

A geology glossary can define *tectonic plate* as a large moving piece of Earth's outer layer.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle the best source, then choose two items and explain which clue in the task helped you decide.

1.	Find the standard pronunciation and part of speech for *reluctant*.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED
2.	Clarify whether *draft* means a current of air or an early version of writing.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED
3.	Find the precise science meaning of *photosynthesis*.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED
4.	Find the standard meaning and part of speech for *generous*.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED
5.	Find the math meaning of *denominator*.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED
6.	Find the literature meaning of *alliteration*.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED
7.	Find the standard pronunciation of *conspicuous*.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED
8.	Find the precise chemistry meaning of *reactant*.	GENERAL SPECIALIZED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new lookup task for a general dictionary and one new lookup task for a specialized glossary.

GENERAL _____

SPECIALIZED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a word with an everyday meaning and a subject-specific meaning. Write which meaning a general dictionary would clarify and which meaning a specialized glossary would clarify.

Mini general dictionary (written for this worksheet): **draft**, noun: 1. a current of air; 2. an early version of a piece of writing. Consult this entry for "The author revised her draft." Record the fitting meaning number, explain the context clue, and name the reference used.

ANSWER KEY **Source Sleuth** **GRADE 7 · 7L4.c**

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Find the standard pronunciation and part of speech for *reluctant*.	**GENERAL**	A general dictionary gives pronunciations and parts of speech for common words.
2	Clarify whether *draft* means a current of air or an early version of writing.	**GENERAL**	A general dictionary lists common multiple meanings.
3	Find the precise science meaning of *photosynthesis*.	**SPECIALIZED**	Photosynthesis is a science term best explained in a science glossary.
4	Find the standard meaning and part of speech for *generous*.	**GENERAL**	A general dictionary gives standard meanings and parts of speech.
5	Find the math meaning of *denominator*.	**SPECIALIZED**	Denominator is a precise math term best explained in a math glossary.
6	Find the literature meaning of *alliteration*.	**SPECIALIZED**	Alliteration is a literature term best explained in an ELA or literary glossary.
7	Find the standard pronunciation of *conspicuous*.	**GENERAL**	A general dictionary provides standard pronunciations.
8	Find the precise chemistry meaning of *reactant*.	**SPECIALIZED**	Reactant is a chemistry term best explained in a chemistry glossary.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **GENERAL**: Find the standard pronunciation of *fragile*.
- **SPECIALIZED**: Find the astronomy meaning of *galaxy*.

Challenge: *Cell* can mean a small room in a general dictionary. A biology glossary explains that a cell is the basic unit of life.

Reference consultation: Meaning 2 fits: an early version of writing. Author and revised show that this is writing, not moving air. Source: the worksheet's mini general dictionary.

Sort key: GENERAL, GENERAL, SPECIALIZED, GENERAL, SPECIALIZED, SPECIALIZED, GENERAL, SPECIALIZED. For Part 2, students should point to clues such as "pronunciation," "part of speech," "math," "science," or "literature." Check that the learner actually consults the supplied entry and gives the source-supported result, rather than only naming a kind of reference. Allow reading and recording support as needed; keep the meaning choice with the learner.