Word Detective Notes

Trace pronunciation, origins, and related words with reference tools.

6.RV.1.G "Use general and specialized word-reference materials, print and digital, to identify word origins, derivations, and pronunciations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each vocabulary word the references explain, circle each pronunciation guide, and number the origin or related-word notes from 1 to 5. This shows the different information that word-reference materials can provide.

Words Beneath the Volcano

1. At a museum, Lena read a label about a volcano. A general dictionary listed the pronunciation as vol-KAY-no and traced the word through Italian vulcano to Vulcano, an island north of Sicily. The island was named for Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and metalworking. The dictionary also gave a related form, volcanic, meaning connected to a volcano. Lena wrote both pronunciations and origins in her notebook. She noticed that the reference used an entry, a pronunciation guide, and an origin note to give different kinds of information.

2. In the rock gallery, a geology glossary defined magma as melted rock below Earth's surface. Its entry showed MAG-muh and noted that magma came from a Greek word meaning a thick ointment. A nearby sign used lava for melted rock after it reaches the surface. Lena used the glossary because it gave subject-specific meanings that a general dictionary might state more briefly. She compared the two entries and heard the first-syllable stress when she said magma aloud.

3. Before leaving, Lena studied crater, the bowl-shaped opening around a volcanic vent. A dictionary traced crater through Latin to a Greek word for a mixing bowl. She saw that the English word crater keeps the bowl idea, even though a crater may be made by an impact as well as by a volcano. For the word igneous, a geology guide gave IG-nee-us and linked it to Latin ignis, meaning fire. Lena decided to check both a dictionary and a subject guide when studying new science words.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which reference material gives the subject-specific definition of magma, and what does it say magma is?

2. How does the glossary show you to pronounce magma, and which syllable has the stress?

3. What origin path does the dictionary give for the word crater?

4. What related word does the dictionary give for volcano, and what does that word mean?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a science word that does not appear in the passage. Use a dictionary and a science glossary or encyclopedia to write three sentences that name your reference materials and explain the word's pronunciation, origin, specialized meaning, and one related word.

ANSWER KEY # Word Detective Notes

GRADE 6 · 6.RV.1.G

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each vocabulary word the references explain, circle each pronunciation guide, and number the origin or related-word notes from 1 to 5. This shows the different information that word-reference materials can provide. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which reference material gives the subject-specific definition of magma, and what does it say magma is?	**A geology glossary. It defines magma as melted rock below Earth's surface.**
2	How does the glossary show you to pronounce magma, and which syllable has the stress?	**MAG-muh. The first syllable has the stress.**
3	What origin path does the dictionary give for the word crater?	**It traces crater through Latin to a Greek word meaning a mixing bowl.**
4	What related word does the dictionary give for volcano, and what does that word mean?	**Volcanic, meaning connected to a volcano.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I used a dictionary and a biology glossary to study photosynthesis. The dictionary gives the pronunciation foe-toh-SIN-thuh-sis and traces photo to a Greek word meaning “light” and synthesis to Greek roots meaning “putting together.” The biology glossary defines photosynthesis as the process in which plants, algae, and some bacteria use light energy to make sugars from carbon dioxide and water, and photosynthetic is a related word.

Accept equivalent pronunciation spellings and accurate descriptions of stressed syllables. For Part 3, accept any science word not used in the passage if the student identifies two appropriate reference materials and gives accurate pronunciation, origin, specialized meaning, and derivation information.