

Safe Crossing Story

Find key actions, then retell them in order.

4.7.D "retell, paraphrase, or summarize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the order of the events. Underline the words that tell the most important action in each paragraph, which you can use to retell the passage.

A Safer Road for Amphibians

- ① Each spring, spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and other amphibians travel on rainy nights to breeding pools. In one Massachusetts town, a busy road cut across their path. Many animals were struck by cars as they crossed. Volunteers began carrying amphibians across the road, but they knew this could not protect every animal or solve the problem forever.
- ② After studying the crossing area, the town built low fences beside the road. The fences guide amphibians toward two tunnels that run underneath the pavement. The tunnels stay damp and dark, which suits these animals. During migration season, volunteers count the amphibians near the tunnels. Their counts help scientists learn whether the crossing is working and how many kinds use it.
- ③ In the first year after the tunnels opened, thousands of amphibians used them. Some still crossed the road, so volunteers continued to watch the area. Over time, the town improved the fences and cleared leaves from tunnel entrances. The project shows how people can change a dangerous place while allowing animals to follow an important seasonal route.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 In two sentences, retell the problem amphibians faced and the first way volunteers tried to help.

2 Paraphrase how the fences and tunnels work together to help amphibians.

3 Write a one-sentence summary of why volunteers count amphibians near the tunnels.

4 Retell what happened after volunteers started helping by writing three numbered steps in logical order.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 40-60-word summary of the whole passage in your own words. Include the problem, the solution, and the later work, keeping the events in order.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the order of the events. Underline the words that tell the most important action in each paragraph, which you can use to retell the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In two sentences, retell the problem amphibians faced and the first way volunteers tried to help.	A road blocked the amphibians' route to breeding pools, and cars struck many of them. Volunteers carried the animals across, but they knew it was not a lasting solution.
2	Paraphrase how the fences and tunnels work together to help amphibians.	The fences steer amphibians toward tunnels under the road so they can cross without going over the pavement.
3	Write a one-sentence summary of why volunteers count amphibians near the tunnels.	Volunteers count amphibians so scientists can tell whether the crossing works and learn which kinds of amphibians use it.
4	Retell what happened after volunteers started helping by writing three numbered steps in logical order.	1. The town studied the crossing and built fences and tunnels. 2. Thousands of amphibians began using the tunnels. 3. Volunteers watched the area, and the town improved the fences and cleared tunnel entrances.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Amphibians trying to reach breeding pools had to cross a dangerous road, so volunteers first helped them by hand. The town then installed guiding fences and underground passages. Volunteers counted animals and kept watching the crossing. Later improvements to the fences and tunnel entrances helped make the route safer.

Accept summaries and retellings that maintain the central meaning and logical sequence, even when students use different wording. For the open response, look for the road danger, the fence and tunnel solution, and later monitoring or improvements.