

Word Detective Notes

Track how resources reveal a word's story.

5.3.A "use print or digital resources to determine meaning, syllabication, pronunciation, and word origin;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each vocabulary word Mia checks in a resource. Circle its syllable division, then number its meaning 1, pronunciation 2, and origin 3 so you can see what each resource detail tells you.

Mia's Bat Count

- ① At the river center, Mia prepared for an evening bat count. A sign used the word nocturnal, but she was unsure of its meaning. She opened a print dictionary and found that nocturnal means active at night. The entry divided the word as noc-tur-nal and showed the pronunciation nok-TUR-nuhl. Its origin was Latin, from a word meaning "night."
- ② Next, Mia read that bats need a safe habitat, or natural home. On a tablet, she checked a digital dictionary. The entry gave hab-i-tat for syllabication and HAB-i-tat for pronunciation. It traced habitat to New Latin habitat, meaning "it inhabits," from Latin habitare, "to dwell." Mia learned that a word's history can help explain its meaning.
- ③ During the count, Mia heard no bat calls, yet a guide explained echolocation. Bats send out sounds and listen for echoes to locate insects. Mia searched the guide's online glossary, then confirmed the word in a dictionary. She found ech-o-lo-ca-tion, pronounced ek-oh-loh-KAY-shuhn. The dictionary said the word was formed from echo and location. She wrote each source beside her notes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Which resource did Mia use to find the meaning, syllabication, pronunciation, and origin of nocturnal?

- 2** Write the syllable division and pronunciation for habitat.

- 3** What word origin does the digital dictionary give for habitat?

- 4** Which two sources did Mia use to check echolocation?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a word connected to animals or nature. Use a print or digital resource, then write one or two sentences that name your source and give the word's meaning, syllable division, pronunciation, and origin.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each vocabulary word Mia checks in a resource. Circle its syllable division, then number its meaning 1, pronunciation 2, and origin 3 so you can see what each resource detail tells you. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which resource did Mia use to find the meaning, syllabication, pronunciation, and origin of nocturnal?	A print dictionary.
2	Write the syllable division and pronunciation for habitat.	hab-i-tat; HAB-i-tat.
3	What word origin does the digital dictionary give for habitat?	New Latin habitat, from Latin habitare, meaning “to dwell.”
4	Which two sources did Mia use to check echolocation?	The guide’s online glossary and a dictionary.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I used the Merriam-Webster online dictionary to study reptile, which means an animal such as a snake or lizard. It is divided rep-tile, pronounced REP-tyl, and comes from Latin reptilis, from reptare, meaning “to crawl.”

Accept pronunciation spellings that clearly match the passage, including reasonable use of capitalization or hyphens. For Part 3, accept any accurately cited print or digital resource and a response that includes all four word details.