

Purposeful Reef Reading

Set a purpose, then track the details that matter.

5.6.A "establish purpose for reading assigned and self-selected texts;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Your purpose is to learn how scientists study coral reefs. Underline three details that help you meet that purpose.

Coral Reef Builders

- ① Coral reefs look like colorful rocks, but they are built by tiny animals called coral polyps. Each polyp makes a hard limestone skeleton. Over many years, new polyps grow on old skeletons, creating reefs in warm, shallow seas. Although reefs cover less than 1 percent of the ocean floor, they provide food and shelter for many ocean animals.
- ② Reefs help people, too. They can weaken waves before the waves reach shore, which may reduce damage during storms. Fish that live near reefs provide food and jobs in some coastal communities. Yet reefs face danger from warmer water, pollution, and harmful fishing practices. When water stays unusually warm, corals can lose the tiny algae that give them energy and color.
- ③ Scientists study reefs by measuring water temperature, counting fish, and taking photographs of the same places over time. Communities can help by keeping trash and chemicals out of waterways and by following fishing rules. Visitors can avoid touching coral, because even a small touch can damage living polyps. Protecting reefs takes many people making careful choices on land and at sea.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Your assigned task is to explain how a coral reef is formed. Write a clear purpose for reading this passage.

- 2** For the purpose of learning how a reef is formed, which paragraph should you examine first? Explain why.

- 3** Change your purpose to learning why reefs need protection. Which paragraph is most useful, and name two dangers it describes.

- 4** If your purpose is to find an action visitors can take to protect reefs, copy the sentence that best meets your purpose.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a self-selected book or article. In two sentences, name the text and state a specific purpose for reading it. Then name two details, headings, or questions you will look for to meet your purpose.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Your purpose is to learn how scientists study coral reefs. Underline three details that help you meet that purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Your assigned task is to explain how a coral reef is formed. Write a clear purpose for reading this passage.	To learn how coral polyps build coral reefs.
2	For the purpose of learning how a reef is formed, which paragraph should you examine first? Explain why.	Paragraph 1, because it explains that polyps make skeletons and new polyps grow on old skeletons.
3	Change your purpose to learning why reefs need protection. Which paragraph is most useful, and name two dangers it describes.	Paragraph 2. Dangers include warmer water, pollution, and harmful fishing practices.
4	If your purpose is to find an action visitors can take to protect reefs, copy the sentence that best meets your purpose.	Visitors can avoid touching coral, because even a small touch can damage living polyps.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose an article called "How Volcanoes Erupt," and my purpose is to learn what causes magma to rise. I will look for a heading about underground pressure and details explaining gases in magma.

Accept specific reading purposes that match the assigned task and point to relevant passage details. For Part 3, accept any self-selected text with a clear purpose and two relevant things the student plans to locate.