

Listen to Sand

Use titles and article structure to update predictions.

7.5.C “make and correct or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the title, write a brief prediction in the margin before each new paragraph, and underline words that later confirm or change your prediction. This helps you track how the article builds its explanation.

Why Some Beaches Sing

- ① On a few dry beaches, a person sliding down a dune can hear a deep hum that lasts for several seconds. These places are often called singing sands. The title suggests that the sound comes from the sand itself, not from hidden animals or machines. Scientists have found booming dunes in deserts and along coasts, including sites in China, Morocco, and the United States. The sound is loud enough at some dunes to be heard far away.
- ② First, the grains must be very dry and similar in size. When many grains slide together down a steep slope, they rub and bounce against one another. This moving layer can make the air above the dune vibrate, producing a low note. Therefore, a reader who predicted that ordinary beach waves create the hum should revise that idea. The sound happens during a sand avalanche, although wind may help build the steep dune before the slide begins.
- ③ However, researchers are still studying why some dunes boom while nearby dunes stay quiet. The answer may depend on the grains' shape, a thin coating on their surfaces, and the amount of moisture. This final uncertainty changes a possible prediction that scientists know every detail. Informational articles often begin with an unusual event, explain its causes, and end by showing what remains unknown. That structure helps readers expect evidence and limits instead of a magical explanation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Before reading paragraph 2, what could you predict causes the hum? Name one clue from the title or paragraph 1 that supports your prediction.

2 How does paragraph 2 confirm or change your prediction about the hum's cause? Use one detail from the paragraph.

3 Suppose you predicted that beach waves make the hum. Which words in paragraph 2 tell you to correct that prediction, and what should replace it?

4 Paragraph 3 describes the structure of an informational article. After an unusual event is introduced, what should you predict the article will explain next? What can the ending still include?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine this article has a fourth paragraph. Write exactly three sentences: predict its topic using the article's structure, name a clue that supports your prediction, and explain one way a new paragraph could confirm or revise it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the title, write a brief prediction in the margin before each new paragraph, and underline words that later confirm or change your prediction. This helps you track how the article builds its explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Before reading paragraph 2, what could you predict causes the hum? Name one clue from the title or paragraph 1 that supports your prediction.	The hum is caused by moving sand or sand grains. A supporting clue is that the title and paragraph 1 say the sound comes from the sand itself.
2	How does paragraph 2 confirm or change your prediction about the hum's cause? Use one detail from the paragraph.	It confirms that moving sand causes the sound. Many dry, similarly sized grains slide together, making the air above the dune vibrate.
3	Suppose you predicted that beach waves make the hum. Which words in paragraph 2 tell you to correct that prediction, and what should replace it?	The words "ordinary beach waves create the hum should revise that idea" show the prediction is wrong. The new prediction should be that a sand avalanche creates the hum.
4	Paragraph 3 describes the structure of an informational article. After an unusual event is introduced, what should you predict the article will explain next? What can the ending still include?	The article should next explain causes with evidence. The ending can include what researchers still do not know or limits in the explanation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I predict that a fourth paragraph would describe tests scientists use to compare booming and quiet dunes. The final paragraph says researchers are still studying the difference, so the article's structure points next to research evidence. A new paragraph could revise my prediction if it explained that scientists do not yet have useful tests.

Accept predictions that use the title, informational genre, or cause-and-effect structure and that are supported by a specific passage detail. For the open task, check for exactly three sentences, a logical prediction, a cited clue, and a reasonable possible revision.