

Reef Clue Hunt

Use nearby details to unlock word meanings.

8.2.B “use context within or beyond a paragraph to clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle four words whose meanings might be unfamiliar or have more than one meaning. Underline the nearby details that clarify each word, then number each circled word and its clues with the same number.

Growing Reefs Underwater

- ① Along Florida’s coast, some scientists grow corals in underwater nurseries before moving them to damaged reefs. These nurseries are not rooms for babies. They are frames or trees placed in clear seawater, where small pieces of living coral can attach and grow. Divers collect fragments from healthy colonies, taking only small pieces so the original colonies can continue living. The work matters because reefs provide shelter and feeding areas for many fish, crabs, and other sea animals.
- ② At the nursery, workers fasten the coral fragments to ropes or metal branches with clips. A gentle current carries food and oxygen-rich water past the growing corals, but a powerful current can snap the structures or tear corals loose. Divers visit often to remove algae, which can block sunlight. They also measure survival rates, the percentage of corals still alive after a certain time. These observations help teams decide which coral types are most likely to succeed after transplanting.
- ③ Transplanting means carefully attaching nursery-grown corals to bare spots on a reef. The new corals must adjust to waves, changing temperatures, and nearby animals. During a heat wave, corals may bleach, or lose the colorful algae that live inside their tissues and supply much of their food. A bleached coral is stressed, but it is not always dead. If cooler conditions return soon, some corals can recover their color and energy. Restoration cannot replace climate action, yet it can help protect vulnerable reef areas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does nurseries mean in paragraph 1? Use details from the paragraph to explain.

2 What does current mean in paragraph 2? Which details help you determine its meaning?

3 What does survival rates mean in paragraph 2?

4 In paragraph 3, what does bleach mean when it describes coral? Explain how the context shows this meaning.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a two-sentence mini-passage about an outdoor place. Use one unfamiliar or ambiguous word and include at least two context clues that reveal its meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle four words whose meanings might be unfamiliar or have more than one meaning. Underline the nearby details that clarify each word, then number each circled word and its clues with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does nurseries mean in paragraph 1? Use details from the paragraph to explain.	Underwater frames or trees where small pieces of coral attach and grow before being moved to damaged reefs.
2	What does current mean in paragraph 2? Which details help you determine its meaning?	Current means moving seawater. It carries food and oxygen-rich water, and a powerful one can snap structures or tear corals loose.
3	What does survival rates mean in paragraph 2?	The percentage of corals that are still alive after a certain amount of time.
4	In paragraph 3, what does bleach mean when it describes coral? Explain how the context shows this meaning.	It means to lose color because the coral loses the algae living inside its tissues. The passage explains that bleaching is stress and does not always mean the coral is dead.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the rain, Maya climbed the muddy bank beside the creek, using tree roots to keep from slipping into the water. From the high edge, she watched leaves float downstream.

Accept responses that use a word with a meaning that could be unclear at first and provide at least two details that reveal the intended meaning. The two sentences should describe an outdoor place and use context rather than a direct dictionary definition.