

Words Light the Way

Use context, roots, and reference tools to unlock precise meanings.

8.2 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--vocabulary. The student uses newly acquired vocabulary expressively..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word whose meaning is clarified by nearby context, circle each dictionary or glossary detail, and number the root clues you find to show how each clue helps define a word.

A Map for Night Walkers

- ① At the city observatory, a student team prepared for an evening sky walk. Their inquiry began with a practical question: Which stars could visitors find without a telescope? The team used a digital dictionary to examine inquiry. Its entry listed in-qui-ry, gave a pronunciation guide, identified it as a noun, and traced it to Latin quaerere, meaning "to seek." The word fit their careful search for evidence, not a quick guess or a casual opinion.
- ② Next, the students made a star chart. They called it astronomical because it showed objects in space, rather than events on Earth. A glossary explained that astro- comes from Greek astron, or "star," and noted that the Greek root path means feeling. At first, one student described the chart as a pathway through the sky. Her partner clarified that pathway meant a route, while empathy meant understanding another person's feelings. Although empathy contains a Greek-derived part, context showed that only pathway named the chart's purpose.
- ③ Before visitors arrived, the observatory director issued a mandate: every guide must use a red flashlight to protect night vision. The rule was not a friendly suggestion, because a mandate is an official order. A reference note traced mand to Latin mandare, "to order." The students also had to conduct, or lead, small groups safely along the marked trail. A print dictionary divided conduct into con-duct, labeled it a verb in this sentence, and connected duc to a Latin word meaning "lead." By checking more than one detail, the students chose each word precisely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** What information did the digital dictionary provide about inquiry? Name its syllable division, part of speech, and origin, and identify the feature that would help with pronunciation.

- 2** What does mandate mean in paragraph 3? Which nearby wording helps you determine its meaning?

- 3** In paragraph 3, how does the phrase “or lead” clarify conduct? State the word’s part of speech and the meaning of its root.

- 4** Why is astronomical an appropriate word for the star chart? Include the meaning and origin of astro-.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a grade-level academic word containing ast, qui, path, mand/mend, or duc. Use a print or digital dictionary to find its syllable breaks, pronunciation, origin, and part of speech, then write exactly two sentences: the first reports those details, and the second uses the word accurately in context.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each word whose meaning is clarified by nearby context, circle each dictionary or glossary detail, and number the root clues you find to show how each clue helps define a word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What information did the digital dictionary provide about inquiry? Name its syllable division, part of speech, and origin, and identify the feature that would help with pronunciation.	in·qui·ry; noun; Latin quaerere, meaning “to seek”; a pronunciation guide.
2	What does mandate mean in paragraph 3? Which nearby wording helps you determine its meaning?	Mandate means an official order. The passage says it was “not a friendly suggestion” and that every guide “must” use a red flashlight.
3	In paragraph 3, how does the phrase “or lead” clarify conduct? State the word’s part of speech and the meaning of its root.	Conduct means to lead in this sentence. It is a verb, and duc means “lead.”
4	Why is astronomical an appropriate word for the star chart? Include the meaning and origin of astro-.	The chart shows objects in space. Astro- comes from the Greek word astron and means “star.”

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I checked a digital dictionary: deduce is divided de·duce, pronounced dih-DOOS, is a verb, and comes from Latin deducere, “to lead down.” From the muddy paw prints and torn seed bag, I could deduce that a raccoon had visited the garden.

Accept equivalent dictionary pronunciations and syllable-break styles. For the open response, accept any accurate word with one listed root if both sentences include the required reference details and an original, contextually correct use.