Bird Count Detectives

Use spelling patterns and word parts to read smoothly.

3.FFR.3 "Phonics and Word Recognition: The student will apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills to decode (read) unfamiliar words in grade level text. Decode and encode words with vowel teams and r-controlled vowels..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words with vowel teams or r-controlled vowels. Circle prefixes and suffixes in longer words to help you read them.

A Morning Bird Count

1. At sunrise, a park ranger began a bird count near a marsh. She carried a clipboard, binoculars, and a small guidebook. A bright blue jay called from an oak tree. Near the water, a heron stood still, waiting for a fish. The ranger wrote each bird's name and location before moving down the trail to another pond.

2. Bird counts help scientists learn which kinds of birds live in an area. When many people report the same species year after year, scientists can notice changes. For example, fewer water birds may mean that a pond is shrinking or that food is harder to find. Careful reports give researchers useful information about bird habitats.

3. Later, the ranger reread her list with a class at the visitor center. The students compared the names in the guidebook with pictures on a screen. One child noticed that a woodpecker had a strong beak for drilling into bark. Another child asked why some birds migrate. The ranger explained that changing weather and food supplies can lead birds to travel.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Split the word careful into syllables with a slash. Then write its suffix.

2. What vowel team is in the word woodpecker?

3. What r-controlled vowel pattern is in the word marsh?

4. The word reread has the prefix re-. What does reread mean in the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal. Use four different words: one with a vowel team, one with an r-controlled vowel, one with a prefix or suffix, and one with at least two syllables. Underline each word and label it VT, R, A, or S.

ANSWER KEY

Bird Count Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.FFR.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words with vowel teams or r-controlled vowels. Circle prefixes and suffixes in longer words to help you read them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Split the word careful into syllables with a slash. Then write its suffix.	**care/ful; -ful**
2	What vowel team is in the word woodpecker?	**oo**
3	What r-controlled vowel pattern is in the word marsh?	**ar**
4	The word reread has the prefix re-. What does reread mean in the passage?	**read again**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The __rabbit__ (S) rested near a __leafy__ (VT) bush. It __carefully__ (A) carried a __carrot__ (R) to its burrow.

For the passage marking, accept correctly underlined vowel-team and r-controlled vowel words and correctly circled prefixes or suffixes. For Part 3, accept any two original sentences with four different, correctly labeled words that match the required patterns.