Reef Word Detectives

Read a science text to notice academic and topic-specific words.

4.RV.1.A "Develop general academic language and content specific vocabulary by listening to, reading, and discussing a variety of texts relevant to a grade four topic or subject area."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline content-specific words or phrases about coral reefs. Circle general academic words that can be used in many school subjects, then use your marks to help explain the text.

Helping a Coral Reef

1. Coral reefs are hard structures built over time by tiny animals called coral polyps. Although reefs cover a small part of ocean floors, they provide food and shelter for many fish, crabs, and sea turtles. A healthy reef has colorful corals and clear water. When a reef is damaged, the animals that depend on it may lose an important habitat.

2. Scientists observe reefs to identify signs of trouble. Warmer water can cause coral bleaching, a process in which corals lose much of their color. Bleached coral is not always dead, but it is under stress and needs cooler, cleaner water. Scientists compare reef areas over time to determine whether conditions are improving or getting worse.

3. In some places, teams restore reefs by growing small coral fragments in underwater nurseries. Later, divers attach the fragments to bare reef rock. This method does not fix every problem, so communities also reduce pollution and protect fish populations. These actions support recovery, which means a damaged reef gradually becomes healthier again. Protecting reefs requires cooperation among scientists, divers, fishers, and local leaders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the nearby details in paragraph 1. What does habitat mean?

2. What is coral bleaching, based on the explanation in paragraph 2?

3. Which academic word in paragraph 2 means to find out or decide?

4. What does cooperation mean in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a topic you are learning, such as weather, state history, or fractions. Use at least two content-specific words and two general academic words, and include a clue that helps a reader understand one content-specific word.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Word Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.RV.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline content-specific words or phrases about coral reefs. Circle general academic words that can be used in many school subjects, then use your marks to help explain the text. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the nearby details in paragraph 1. What does habitat mean?	**A place where an animal lives and finds what it needs, such as food and shelter.**
2	What is coral bleaching, based on the explanation in paragraph 2?	**A process in which corals lose much of their color.**
3	Which academic word in paragraph 2 means to find out or decide?	**determine**
4	What does cooperation mean in paragraph 3?	**Working together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Meteorologists observe a weather map to identify a cold front moving toward the town. This boundary between air masses may bring cooler temperatures and rain.

Accept reasonable context-based meanings for the vocabulary words. For the open task, accept any accurate topic, two sentences, at least two content-specific words, at least two general academic words, and a useful context clue.