

Museum Word Detectives

Use reference tools to make word meanings clear.

4.RV.1.I "Use glossaries, beginning dictionaries, and thesauruses, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words specimen, preserve, and careful. Circle the name of the reference tool that helps Maya clarify each word, and write 1, 2, or 3 to match each word to its tool.

Maya Studies River Stones

- ① At the river museum, Maya studied a tray of smooth stones. The label called each stone a specimen. She opened the museum's digital glossary and read: specimen, an object kept for study. That meaning fit because the staff saved the stones so visitors could examine them. Maya wrote the meaning beside the label, instead of guessing from the word's sound.
- ② Later, Maya read that workers preserve the oldest stones in a dry case. In a print beginning dictionary, she found preserve: to keep something safe or in good condition. She chose this definition, not "save food in a jar," because the sentence describes museum workers protecting stones. The dictionary also showed the guide words, prevent and preview, at the top of the page.
- ③ Maya wanted a more exact word for her careful notes. A digital thesaurus listed cautious, attentive, and thorough as synonyms for careful. She picked thorough because her notes included each stone's color, size, and place in the tray. A thesaurus gives words with similar meanings, but Maya still checked the sentence to choose the word that made the most sense.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which digital reference tool helps Maya clarify specimen? What meaning does it give?

2 Why does Maya choose the definition "to keep something safe or in good condition" for preserve?

3 The guide words are prevent and preview. Would you find prepare on this dictionary page? Explain.

4 Which thesaurus synonym does Maya choose for careful, and what detail helps her choose it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Use these reference cards to write three sentences about a nature walk. In sentence 1, use fragile, sentence 2 use observe, and sentence 3 replace quick with fast or speedy. After each sentence, name the card you used in parentheses: Digital Glossary: fragile, easily broken or damaged. Print Beginning Dictionary: observe, to watch closely. Digital Thesaurus: quick, fast, speedy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words specimen, preserve, and careful. Circle the name of the reference tool that helps Maya clarify each word, and write 1, 2, or 3 to match each word to its tool. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which digital reference tool helps Maya clarify specimen? What meaning does it give?	The digital glossary. A specimen is an object kept for study.
2	Why does Maya choose the definition “to keep something safe or in good condition” for preserve?	The sentence is about museum workers protecting old stones in a dry case, not saving food in a jar.
3	The guide words are prevent and preview. Would you find prepare on this dictionary page? Explain.	No. Prepare comes before prevent in alphabetical order, so it would be on an earlier page.
4	Which thesaurus synonym does Maya choose for careful, and what detail helps her choose it?	Thorough. Her notes include each stone’s color, size, and place in the tray.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The fragile leaf crumbled when I touched it. (Digital Glossary) I observed a beetle crawl under a rock. (Print Beginning Dictionary) A speedy squirrel raced up the tree. (Digital Thesaurus)

Accept answers that use the supplied glossary, dictionary, and thesaurus entries correctly in a fitting sentence. For the open task, accept fast or speedy and reasonable nature-walk details.