Revision Detective

Read a model paragraph and notice revision choices.

4.W.3.A "With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by revising for quality of ideas, organization, sentence fluency, and word choice."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences that tell a change Maya made to her draft. Circle words that show the order of her ideas or revisions.

Maya Revises a Butterfly Paragraph

1. On Tuesday, Maya watched a monarch butterfly rest on a milkweed plant beside the school garden. Her first draft said only that the butterfly was pretty. When she reread it, she added the orange-and-black wing pattern and the curled tube it used to sip nectar. These details helped readers picture what Maya had seen clearly.

2. Next, Maya placed her ideas in an order that matched her observation. She began with where the butterfly landed. Then she described its wings and feeding tube. Last, she explained why the milkweed mattered: monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves. This order let readers follow her thinking from the first sighting to the reason for the plant.

3. Finally, Maya read the paragraph aloud. She heard that two sentences started with "The butterfly," so she changed one beginning to "Its bright wings caught the morning light." She also replaced the vague word "nice" with "sun-warmed" to describe the garden. After these changes, the paragraph had smoother sentences and clearer pictures. Maya kept only details that helped her main idea, a close look at one butterfly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details did Maya add to make her ideas clearer?

2. What order did Maya use to organize her paragraph?

3. How did Maya improve the fluency of her sentences after reading aloud?

4. Which word did Maya replace, and what clearer word did she use?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4-5 sentence paragraph about a creature or object you observed. Revise it to add two precise details, arrange ideas with at least two order words, and use at least one precise word instead of a vague word.

ANSWER KEY

Revision Detective

GRADE 4 · 4.W.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that tell a change Maya made to her draft. Circle words that show the order of her ideas or revisions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details did Maya add to make her ideas clearer?	**She added the butterfly's orange-and-black wing pattern and its curled feeding tube used to sip nectar.**
2	What order did Maya use to organize her paragraph?	**She wrote about where the butterfly landed, then its wings and feeding tube, and last why milkweed mattered.**
3	How did Maya improve the fluency of her sentences after reading aloud?	**She changed one repeated sentence beginning, "The butterfly," to "Its bright wings caught the morning light."**
4	Which word did Maya replace, and what clearer word did she use?	**She replaced "nice" with "sun-warmed."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I spotted a green tree frog clinging to the wet window screen. Its round toes pressed against the tiny metal squares, and its gold eyes blinked in the porch light. Next, the frog stretched one long back leg. Then it snapped its sticky pink tongue at a moth. The small visitor made the rainy porch feel alive.

For the writing task, accept varied topics if the paragraph has 4-5 sentences and shows clearer ideas, organization, sentence fluency, and precise word choice.