Reef Builders

Track how each paragraph builds an idea.

6.RI.3.A "Describe ideas within and between selections including how specific sentences, paragraphs, or sections contribute to the development of ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that helps explain how oyster reefs are restored. Number the underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3 to show how the ideas build from paragraph to paragraph.

Rebuilding Oyster Reefs

1. Along many coasts, oyster reefs once formed rough underwater ridges. The reefs gave fish and crabs places to hide, and the oysters filtered water as they fed. But harvesting, pollution, and disease reduced many reefs. Scientists and local volunteers now rebuild some of them. They place cleaned, recycled oyster shells in shallow water. Young oysters, called spat, can attach to the shells. This first step matters because oysters need a hard surface where they can grow in groups.

2. After the shells are set, workers check the site often. They measure how many young oysters survive and whether mud covers the shells. This monitoring helps teams decide what to change. For example, a reef in water with strong waves may need heavier shell piles so the shells stay in place. Workers also look for new fish, crabs, and other animals. These observations show whether the reef is becoming habitat, not simply a pile of shells.

3. One restored reef in the Chesapeake Bay can influence nearby water and wildlife, but restoration is not a quick fix. Oysters grow slowly, and storms can shift shells or bury young oysters. Therefore, groups return to a reef for years instead of treating the building day as the final result. Their long-term work connects the earlier steps: shells provide a place for oysters, and monitoring shows which reefs need repairs. Together, these steps explain how a damaged reef can gradually become a living coastal habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the last sentence of paragraph 1 contribute to the idea of reef restoration?

2. How does the example about strong waves in paragraph 2 develop the idea of monitoring?

3. How do paragraphs 1 and 2 build the restoration process in order?

4. How does paragraph 3 connect the earlier restoration steps to the final result?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence paragraph explaining how all three paragraphs build the idea that oyster reef restoration succeeds through connected steps. Include one detail from each paragraph and explain how each detail contributes to the idea.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that helps explain how oyster reefs are restored. Number the underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3 to show how the ideas build from paragraph to paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the last sentence of paragraph 1 contribute to the idea of reef restoration?	**It explains why workers place shells first: young oysters need a hard surface on which to grow.**
2	How does the example about strong waves in paragraph 2 develop the idea of monitoring?	**It gives a specific example of how monitoring helps workers decide what change a reef needs.**
3	How do paragraphs 1 and 2 build the restoration process in order?	**Paragraph 1 explains placing shells so young oysters can attach. Paragraph 2 explains checking the reef and making changes when needed.**
4	How does paragraph 3 connect the earlier restoration steps to the final result?	**It explains that workers continue for years, using shells and monitoring to help a damaged reef become habitat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Oyster reef restoration succeeds through connected steps. Paragraph 1 explains that shells give young oysters a hard surface on which to grow. Paragraph 2 shows that workers monitor survival and conditions so they can make changes. Paragraph 3 explains that teams return for years, linking the early work to a lasting habitat.

Accept answers that accurately explain a sentence or paragraph's role in developing the restoration idea, even if students use different wording. For the open response, look for a clear central idea, one accurate detail from each paragraph, and an explanation of how the details connect.