Tide Pool Word Detectives

Use reference materials and context to select precise word meanings.

6.RV.1.F "Clarify the meaning of an unknown word or select the applicable definition of a word from a text by using word reference materials."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each vocabulary word whose meaning Maya checks in a guide or dictionary. Underline the nearby context clue that helps her choose the meaning that fits.

A Guide at Low Tide

1. At low tide, Maya joined a ranger at a rocky shore. The ranger handed each student a small tide-pool guide. Beside the word anemone, the guide said, "a sea animal with soft tentacles that catches food." Maya spotted a green anemone attached to a rock. Its tentacles waved in the water. She used the guide instead of guessing that anemone meant a sea plant. Although it looked like one, the printed definition made sense of the sight.

2. Farther along, the ranger pointed to a crab hiding beneath a ledge. The guide described a crevice as "a narrow crack or opening in rock." Maya checked the photograph beside the entry, then looked at the thin space under the ledge. She decided the crab had slipped into a crevice, not a cave. A cave would be much larger. The guide's definition and picture helped her select the meaning that fit this place on the shore.

3. Before leaving, Maya read a sign that said, "Do not disturb the resident animals." Her pocket dictionary gave two meanings for resident: "a person who lives in a place" and "an animal or plant that regularly lives in an area." Because the sign named animals, Maya chose the second definition. She also noticed the guide's source line, which named the coastal park staff who prepared it. Checking who made a reference can help a reader decide whether it is trustworthy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does anemone mean in the passage? Name the reference material that gives this meaning.

2. Which words in paragraph 2 help you select "a narrow crack or opening in rock" as the meaning of crevice?

3. Which dictionary definition of resident fits the sign, and what context clue supports your choice?

4. What is the other dictionary definition of resident, and why does it not fit the sign?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an original sentence using a word that has at least two dictionary definitions. Then list two definitions from a print or digital dictionary, choose the definition that fits your sentence, and name the context clue that helped you choose.

ANSWER KEY

Tide Pool Word Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.RV.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each vocabulary word whose meaning Maya checks in a guide or dictionary. Underline the nearby context clue that helps her choose the meaning that fits. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does anemone mean in the passage? Name the reference material that gives this meaning.	**Anemone means a sea animal with soft tentacles that catches food. The tide-pool guide gives the meaning.**
2	Which words in paragraph 2 help you select "a narrow crack or opening in rock" as the meaning of crevice?	**"the thin space under the ledge" helps show that crevice means a narrow crack or opening in rock.**
3	Which dictionary definition of resident fits the sign, and what context clue supports your choice?	**"An animal or plant that regularly lives in an area" fits. The clue is that the sign says "resident animals."**
4	What is the other dictionary definition of resident, and why does it not fit the sign?	**The other definition is "a person who lives in a place." It does not fit because the sign is about animals, not people.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I wrote, "We ate lunch on the bank of the river." In a dictionary, bank can mean "land along a river" or "a business that keeps money," and the first definition fits because the sentence names a river.

Accept equivalent definitions when they match a reliable reference source and fit the student's sentence. For the open task, the student should include an original context, two possible definitions, a correct selection, and a relevant context clue.