Clearer Creek Notes

Revise a science field report for precise details, varied sentences, and smooth connections.

6.W.3.A "Revise writing for clarity of content, word choice, sentence variety, and transition among paragraphs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three vague words or phrases that should be clearer. Circle repeated sentence beginnings, then number the transition words or phrases in the order they guide the reader.

Creek Study Draft

1. Last Saturday, our science club visited Willow Creek to study water quality. We used a test kit, notebooks, and a small net. First, we did stuff near the bank. We looked at the water, measured its temperature, and wrote down what we saw. The creek was 16 degrees Celsius. It was kind of cold. We also saw tiny animals moving under wet leaves. This information mattered because aquatic insects can show whether a stream has healthy conditions.

2. Then, we put the net in the water and gently brushed the creek bottom for one minute. Then, we emptied the net into a white tray. Then, we sorted the animals with plastic spoons. The group found mayfly nymphs, caddisfly larvae, and a crayfish. These were good things. Mayfly nymphs and many caddisfly larvae need clean, well-oxygenated water. Our list gave the club a clue about the creek, but the results were not the whole story.

3. Also, the club tested the water for dissolved oxygen and acidity. The dissolved oxygen result was 8 milligrams per liter, which is a useful amount for many stream animals. The pH was 7.2, close to neutral. This was nice. After the visit, the club shared its notes with the park ranger. The ranger said that one day of testing cannot prove the creek is healthy all year. Because of that, we will return in spring and fall to compare results.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which three sentences in paragraph 2 begin with the same word? Rewrite the second of those sentences with a different beginning that keeps its meaning.

2. Replace the word “stuff” in paragraph 1 with a precise phrase based on the details that follow it.

3. Rewrite the first sentence of paragraph 3 so it clearly connects the water test to the animal sorting in paragraph 2.

4. Rewrite “This was nice” in paragraph 3 so the sentence clearly explains the pH result.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph field note about an observation you made outdoors or at school. Begin paragraphs 2 and 3 with clear transitions, include at least two precise details, and vary your sentence beginnings and lengths.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.W.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three vague words or phrases that should be clearer. Circle repeated sentence beginnings, then number the transition words or phrases in the order they guide the reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which three sentences in paragraph 2 begin with the same word? Rewrite the second of those sentences with a different beginning that keeps its meaning.	**The first three sentences begin with "Then." Sample revision: "After one minute, we emptied the net into a white tray."**
2	Replace the word "stuff" in paragraph 1 with a precise phrase based on the details that follow it.	**Sample revision: "water-quality observations and measurements."**
3	Rewrite the first sentence of paragraph 3 so it clearly connects the water test to the animal sorting in paragraph 2.	**Sample revision: "In addition to sorting the animals, the club tested the water for dissolved oxygen and acidity."**
4	Rewrite "This was nice" in paragraph 3 so the sentence clearly explains the pH result.	**Sample revision: "The pH reading of 7.2 showed that the water was close to neutral."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday morning, I observed the school courtyard for ten minutes. Five robins searched the grass near a puddle. Meanwhile, a breeze shook seeds from the maple tree. I recorded the wind as light because only small branches moved. After the bell rang, students crossed the courtyard, and the birds flew to the fence. My notes show how noise and movement changed where the robins fed.

Accept precise revisions that use details already in the passage and keep the scientific information accurate. For the open task, look for three paragraphs, logical transitions, specific details, and noticeable variety in sentence openings or lengths.