Reef Words at Work

Use context to understand academic and science vocabulary.

7.RV.1.A "Develop and accurately use general academic language and content-specific vocabulary by listening to, reading, and discussing a variety of grade-seven texts and topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle five content-specific words about reef restoration. Underline the nearby words that explain the meaning of any two circled words, so you can use context to learn precise vocabulary.

Restoring Coral Reefs

1. Along Florida's coast, some scientists are restoring coral reefs, underwater ecosystems where many living things interact. Reefs give fish shelter and help weaken waves before they reach shore. However, warm water can cause coral bleaching, a stress response in which corals lose the tiny algae that provide much of their food and color. Bleached coral is not always dead, but it is more vulnerable to disease and may struggle to grow. Restoration teams study which corals recover after stressful conditions.

2. To rebuild a damaged reef, divers attach small coral fragments to sturdy frames or place them on safe sections of the reef. This process is called transplanting because the fragments are moved to a new growing place. The teams monitor, or carefully observe over time, each fragment's survival and growth. They compare results from different coral species and locations. Their data can support a claim about which methods are most effective. For example, a method that produces many living, growing fragments may be more effective than one that produces few.

3. Reef restoration does not solve every problem facing corals. Pollution, overfishing, and continued ocean warming can harm an ecosystem even after new corals are planted. Still, restoration can increase biodiversity, the variety of living things in an area, when fish and other organisms return to a healthier reef. Scientists also test whether restored reefs are resilient, meaning able to recover after disturbances such as storms or heat waves. By sharing evidence from repeated observations, teams can revise their plans and focus resources where they are most useful.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does vulnerable mean as it is used to describe bleached coral?

2. Which words in paragraph 2 explain the meaning of monitor?

3. What claim can the teams support with their data in paragraph 2?

4. What does resilient mean in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a habitat you know or can imagine. Use at least two content-specific words from the passage and one general academic word, such as claim, evidence, compare, or revise. Make a claim about how people could help the habitat, and include evidence that could support it.

ANSWER KEY

Reef Words at Work

GRADE 7 · 7.RV.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle five content-specific words about reef restoration. Underline the nearby words that explain the meaning of any two circled words, so you can use context to learn precise vocabulary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does vulnerable mean as it is used to describe bleached coral?	**More likely to be harmed, especially by disease.**
2	Which words in paragraph 2 explain the meaning of monitor?	**"carefully observe over time"**
3	What claim can the teams support with their data in paragraph 2?	**A claim about which restoration methods are most effective.**
4	What does resilient mean in paragraph 3?	**Able to recover after disturbances, such as storms or heat waves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Restoring native grasses can help a prairie ecosystem become more resilient after drought. My claim is that this work can increase biodiversity, and evidence would include repeated observations showing more kinds of insects and birds.

Accept accurate context-based explanations of vocabulary, including reasonable synonyms. For Part 3, accept varied habitats and solutions if the response has exactly two sentences, uses the required vocabulary, states a claim, and names relevant evidence.