Map Word Detectives

Use different reference materials to uncover what words tell you.

8.RV.1.G "Use general and specialized word-reference materials, print and digital, to determine pronunciation, etymology, derivations, and parts of speech."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each reference material named in the passage. Number 1 through 4 beside details about pronunciation, word history, related word forms, and parts of speech.

Labels for a Map Display

1 At Harbor View Museum, Maya prepared labels for a display about early maps. She paused at the word cartography, the study and making of maps. A general dictionary gave the pronunciation kar-TOG-ruh-fee and labeled the word a noun. The entry also listed cartographic as an adjective. Maya wrote both forms on her planning card because a label might describe a cartographic method or name cartography as a field of study for visitors in the display.

2 Next, Maya opened an online etymology dictionary. It traced cartography to French cartographie, formed from carte, meaning "map," and the Greek element -graphia, meaning "writing" or "recording." That history helped her see why cartographer means a person who makes maps. The dictionary showed that cartographer is a noun and cartographers is its plural form. Maya checked a second source before adding the origin note, since word histories can be complex and sources sometimes give different details about borrowed words.

3 Finally, Maya used a specialized geographic-information glossary to check scale. In everyday speech, scale can mean a series of musical notes or a device for weighing. In mapping, scale is a noun that compares a distance on a map with the matching distance on Earth. The glossary used the phrase representative fraction, such as 1:24,000. Maya chose this specialized source because its definition fit the map label better than a general dictionary definition that could provide several unrelated meanings.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which reference material gave Maya the pronunciation of cartography? Write the pronunciation shown in the passage.

2. According to the etymology dictionary, what two language parts helped form cartography, and what does each part mean?

3. What related forms of cartography does the passage give? Include the part of speech for each form.

4. Why did Maya use a specialized geographic-information glossary for scale instead of relying on a general dictionary? Include the part of speech of scale in mapping.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school-related word that does not appear in the passage. Use a general dictionary and one specialized reference material, then write exactly three sentences that name your sources and give the word's pronunciation, etymology, a related form, and parts of speech.

ANSWER KEY

Map Word Detectives

GRADE 8 · 8.RV.1.G

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each reference material named in the passage. Number 1 through 4 beside details about pronunciation, word history, related word forms, and parts of speech. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which reference material gave Maya the pronunciation of cartography? Write the pronunciation shown in the passage.	**A general dictionary; kar-TOG-ruh-fee.**
2	According to the etymology dictionary, what two language parts helped form cartography, and what does each part mean?	**French carte means "map," and Greek -graphia means "writing" or "recording."**
3	What related forms of cartography does the passage give? Include the part of speech for each form.	**Cartographic is an adjective. Cartographer is a noun, and cartographers is its plural form.**
4	Why did Maya use a specialized geographic-information glossary for scale instead of relying on a general dictionary? Include the part of speech of scale in mapping.	**The specialized glossary gave the map-specific meaning, while a general dictionary could give unrelated meanings. In mapping, scale is a noun.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I checked Merriam-Webster Dictionary for geology, pronounced jee-OL-uh-jee, a noun. Its related forms include geologic, an adjective, and geologist, a noun for a person who studies Earth. The Online Etymology Dictionary traces geology to Greek geo, meaning "earth," plus -logia, meaning "study."

Accept accurate pronunciations written with a dictionary key, IPA, or a clear respelling. For Part 3, accept different appropriate school-related words if the student names both sources and correctly includes all four required word details.