POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Upstream Vocabulary: River trip 1 of 4

Shell Creek · Grade 6



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

1	2	3	4	5
Gravel Bend	**Riffle Run**	**Pine Pool**	**Boulder Pocket**	**Headwaters Challenge**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

1 Gravel Bend

resilient

A class compared two materials for a footbridge model. After the bending test, one sample remained twisted, but the **resilient** strip returned to its original shape after every bend.

Both samples supported the same load before the test began, so initial strength did not settle the choice. The students had bent each sample, removed the weight, and watched how each one responded.

The group chose that strip because the model would be handled many times during the exhibition, not simply placed behind glass.

As used in this passage, what does the word “resilient” most likely mean?

(A) able to recover after strain
(B) always rigid and impossible to bend
(C) easily damaged by any pressure
(D) unaffected by every challenge

2 Riffle Run

inaccessible

A team creating a park guide highlighted a lookout undergoing repairs. The map needed a temporary warning, but the team first checked what visitors would actually find there.

The only path had been closed at both ends, so visitors could not reach the lookout from any public entrance. The guide suggested another viewpoint until workers finished repairing the damaged steps.

These conditions explained why the map called the lookout **inaccessible**. A note beside the warning explained that the prefix in- can mean not. Students checked the warning against the route shown on the map before sending the guide to print.

Using the word parts and passage, what does “inaccessible” most likely mean?

(A) able to be reached with extra care
(B) open for everyone to use
(C) not able to be reached or entered
(D) reached again after a short wait

3 Pine Pool

assertive

At the planning meeting, two confident speakers kept interrupting everyone else. Rina wanted the group to hear her idea, but she did not want another argument. She waited for a pause, sat upright, and explained that she needed a full minute to finish her point.

Her response was **assertive**. She spoke clearly about what she needed while still treating the others respectfully.

Once she had finished, she invited them to respond, showing that standing up for herself did not require shutting everyone else out.

What does the author’s choice of the word “assertive” suggest about Rina’s response?

(A) confident in stating a need respectfully
(B) aggressive about controlling everyone else
(C) too uncertain to express any opinion
(D) eager to agree with every suggestion

4 Boulder Pocket

current

A model river in the science room contained a pump, several stones, and small paper markers. When students switched on the pump, water began moving around the stones.

The water carried the markers toward the far end of the tray. Near one stone, some markers circled briefly before joining the main flow again. Watching them made the movement easier to observe without touching the water.

Students drew arrows to chart the **current**. The arrows followed the paths taken by the markers through the model.

As used in this passage, what does the word "current" most likely mean?

(A) a flow of water in one direction
(B) a description of what is happening now
(C) a widely shared trend in opinion
(D) a fixed barrier that prevents movement

5 Headwaters Challenge

a sea of faces

The new student choir gathered backstage for its first community performance. Leon adjusted his folder while the conductor spoke quietly to the group.

Leon peeked through a gap in the curtain. Rows of people filled the hall from the front seats to the distant doors, too many for him to recognize individually. The curtain was dark blue with a narrow gold edge.

A stage helper signaled that the choir should get ready. Leon joined the other singers beside the steps leading to the performance platform. Beyond the curtain, **a sea of faces** waited for the choir.

Part A. As used in this passage, what does the phrase "a sea of faces" most likely mean?

(A) a crowd of people filling a large space
(B) people floating together on actual water
(C) one familiar person standing apart
(D) a group whose faces all look identical

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "gathered backstage for its first community performance"
(B) "A stage helper signaled that the choir should get ready."
(C) "Rows of people filled the hall from the front seats to the distant doors"
(D) "Leon joined the other singers beside the steps leading to the performance platform."

River Talk (bonus, not scored): riffle

Trout often feed in a **riffle**, where shallow water ripples quickly over rocks.

What do you think a riffle is?

_____

_____

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Upstream Vocabulary: River trip 2 of 4

Miracle Mile · Grade 6



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

1	2	3	4	5
Sagebrush Bank	**Long Glide**	**Deep Run**	**Gravel Seam**	**Far Bend**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

1 Sagebrush Bank

debris

Before reopening the community garden, volunteers inspected the path beside its tool shed. A storm had pushed loose objects against the gate, but the shed itself still stood. The inspection team first checked for sharp edges and unstable branches.

They then cleared the **debris**, including broken twigs, scraps of roofing, and pieces of a cracked flowerpot.

Once those scattered remains were removed, the group could reach the gate and decide which repairs were needed before visitors returned the next weekend.

As used in this passage, what does the word “debris” most likely mean?

(A) equipment arranged for a repair job
(B) scattered pieces left after damage
(C) objects collected because they are valuable
(D) parts that remain firmly connected

2 Long Glide

predictable

A team tested a game spinner before including it in a school fair. Its result was **predictable**.

The spinner landed on the same section every time because a hidden weight pulled it toward one side. Anyone watching several turns could say where the next turn would end.

A note on the test sheet explained that -able can mean capable of being. The students repaired the spinner so that players would have a fair chance when they spun it.

Using the word parts and passage, what does "predictable" most likely mean?

(A) certain to happen only once
(B) impossible to describe until afterward
(C) easily changed by anyone who asks
(D) possible to work out beforehand

3 Deep Run

cautious

The river path was new to Ben, and a recent shower had left patches of loose mud beside the footbridge. His friends hurried toward the lookout, but Ben noticed marks where someone had slipped.

He wanted to join them without turning a walk into an avoidable accident. He tested each uncertain patch before putting his full weight on it.

Although he continued rather than refusing to move, his **cautious** approach meant judging the risks before each step instead of rushing blindly ahead.

What does the author's choice of the word "cautious" suggest about Ben's approach?

(A) unwilling to attempt anything unfamiliar
(B) careful to avoid unnecessary risk
(C) certain that no danger could possibly exist
(D) eager to finish before considering consequences

4 Gravel Seam

channel

A class modeled a town path where water collected after storms. The students added a narrow **channel** along the edge.

Other ideas had already failed: raising the entire path would cost too much, and covering puddles with gravel had not solved the problem in their model. The design needed to guide water away from the walking surface.

They tested the design by pouring water over the model. Rainwater ran through this shallow passage into a collection bed, leaving the path above it clear.

As used in this passage, what does the word "channel" most likely mean?

(A) a television service carrying particular programs
(B) a narrow passage that guides flowing water
(C) an instruction that must be obeyed
(D) an object that stops all movement

5 Far Bend

held its breath

The hall was full for the last scene of the school play. As the actor reached for the letter, the room **held its breath**.

Backstage helpers stood near the curtain with the props for the final moment. The stage lights shone on a small wooden desk.

Conversation stopped, and the audience waited in complete stillness to hear what the letter would reveal.

After the final line, the curtain moved slowly across the stage. The actors would return together to thank everyone who had helped with the production that term.

Part A. As used in this passage, what does the phrase "held its breath" most likely mean?

(A) stopped breathing because the air was unsafe
(B) waited in silence for an uncertain result
(C) became too tired to continue an activity
(D) forgot why everyone had gathered

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "stood near the curtain with the props for the final moment"
(B) "After the final line, the curtain moved slowly across the stage."
(C) "The actors would return together to thank everyone who had helped with the production that term."
(D) "the audience waited in complete stillness to hear what the letter would reveal"

River Talk (bonus, not scored): eddy

The main current swept downstream past the bend. Behind a rock near the bank, a leaf circled in a small **eddy** before drifting back into the river.

What is an eddy in this passage?

_____

_____

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Upstream Vocabulary: River trip 3 of 4

Encampment River · Grade 6



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

1	2	3	4	5
Canyon Pool	**Amber Shallows**	**Boulder Run**	**Pine Shade**	**Riffle Head**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

1 Canyon Pool

abundant

Students designing a wildlife reserve compared three sites for a bird observation shelter. They used information cards supplied with their planning kit. One site offered an excellent view but almost no shade, while another could be reached only by a long walk.

At the third site, seeds covered the ground beneath many plants, and plenty remained after visiting birds had eaten.

That **abundant** supply made the third site worth further study. The students selected it while noting that food availability was only one factor in their decision.

As used in this passage, what does the word “abundant” most likely mean?

(A) spread thinly across a wide area
(B) difficult to find when needed
(C) available in large amounts
(D) kept only for a special purpose

2 Amber Shallows

interdependent

In a classroom planning game, students built a town from cards showing different services. The repair shop needed parts from the delivery team, while the delivery team needed the shop to keep its vehicles running. Removing either service created problems for the other.

The services were **interdependent**. A note on the service cards explained that inter- can mean between or among.

When the delivery cards were removed, the repair shop ran out of replacement parts. When the shop was removed, a broken delivery vehicle stayed in the depot. The students restored both cards before continuing.

Using the word parts and passage, what does "interdependent" most likely mean?

(A) relying on one another for support
(B) working entirely without help from others
(C) controlled by one side without return benefit
(D) close together but having no connection

3 Boulder Run

frugal

The garden group had a small budget for its spring planting. Their approach was **frugal**.

Members wanted useful supplies, but they also hoped to save money for repairs later in the year. They compared prices and checked which materials from the previous season could still be used.

They reused sound containers and bought only what was needed, while still making sure every group had enough equipment. At the next meeting, each group collected its tools, and the treasurer set the remaining money aside for repairs.

What does the author's choice of the word "frugal" suggest about the group's spending?

(A) unwilling to spend anything even when necessary
(B) careless about the cost of purchases
(C) careful not to waste money or useful materials
(D) generous mainly to impress other people

4 Pine Shade

bank

Nora and her uncle followed the footpath until the river widened near a meadow. The path ended near a wooden signpost, so they stopped there to study the water before continuing their walk.

They settled on the grassy **bank**, safely above the flowing water. Nora noticed that one side of the river was steep while the other sloped gently toward the grass.

From the dry edge of the river, Nora could watch leaves drift past without stepping into the stream itself.

As used in this passage, what does the word "bank" most likely mean?

(A) a large amount of something saved for later
(B) the act of tilting while turning
(C) the land along the edge of a river
(D) a raised row of seats for an audience

5 Riffle Head

a silver ribbon

After an evening shower, Theo looked down the long road from the upper floor of his aunt's house. Lamps had begun to shine along its edge.

The wet road became **a silver ribbon** in his description of the view. His notebook rested beside a cup on the windowsill.

A narrow strip of reflected light curved through the dark neighborhood, shining against the shadowed buildings on either side.

Theo closed the notebook when his aunt called him to supper. He planned to add a sketch beside the description in the morning.

Part A. As used in this passage, what does the phrase "a silver ribbon" most likely mean?

(A) a length of metal fabric tied in a bow
(B) a broad area with no visible edges
(C) a long, thin, shining shape in the view
(D) a route that is completely straight and dark

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "A narrow strip of reflected light curved through the dark neighborhood"
(B) "Theo looked down the long road from the upper floor of his aunt's house."
(C) "The wet road became a silver ribbon in his description of the view."
(D) "closed the notebook when his aunt called him to supper"

River Talk (bonus, not scored): seam

Fast water slid past a boulder while the water beside it moved slowly. A thin line of bubbles followed the **seam** where the two currents met.

What does seam mean here?

_____

_____

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Upstream Vocabulary: River trip 4 of 4

North Tongue River · Grade 6



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

1	2	3	4	5
Meadow Bend	**Willow Run**	**Grassy Cut**	**Shallow Riffle**	**Rapid Tail**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★

1 Meadow Bend — *persistent*

Tessa proposed a school repair club, but her first meeting ended before anyone discussed the idea. She was **persistent**.

The next week, the activities coordinator was absent. Tessa could have treated those interruptions as a final answer, but she wanted the idea considered fairly.

She returned with a shorter proposal, arranged another meeting, and followed up when the office requested more information. After several weeks, she finally had an opportunity to explain how the club would work.

As used in this passage, what does the word “persistent” most likely mean?

(A) finishing every task without delay
(B) changing interests whenever work becomes difficult
(C) refusing to listen to useful advice
(D) continuing an effort despite obstacles

2 Willow Run

subsurface

A group designed a science exhibit with a clear-sided box of layered materials. Visitors could see the top from above, while a side window revealed lower layers that would otherwise remain hidden.

The students prepared labels for both views. They used the prefix sub-, meaning under or below, to describe where the lower material lay in relation to the visible top.

Lifting a removable cover let visitors compare the top view with the side view of the **subsurface** layers. The labels directed attention to their position beneath the outside layer, not to their color or texture.

Using the word parts and passage, what does "subsurface" most likely mean?

(A) covering the highest point
(B) located below an outer layer
(C) added after all other work is finished
(D) spreading outward in every direction

3 Grassy Cut

skeptical

A brochure promised that its model water filter would remove every possible substance from any stream. The claim sounded impressive, but Amina noticed that the brochure included no test results and did not explain what the company meant by every substance.

She was **skeptical**. Instead of accepting the promise immediately, she asked for evidence and wanted to know how the tests were done.

She was willing to change her mind if reliable information supported the claim, but bright pictures alone did not convince her.

What does the author's choice of the word "skeptical" suggest about Amina's attitude?

(A) certain that every unfamiliar claim is false
(B) convinced mainly by an attractive presentation
(C) uninterested in finding out the truth
(D) doubtful but open to convincing evidence

4 Shallow Riffle

conduct

At Cedar School, a team planned a survey about uses for an empty courtyard. Students first agreed on questions that would not suggest a preferred answer.

Members would organize the process, ask students for their views, and bring the completed forms together for discussion. They divided these responsibilities and scheduled the survey for lunch.

Their report would describe how they planned to **conduct** the investigation from beginning to end. It would explain the whole process, rather than list only the questions they had written.

As used in this passage, what does the word "conduct" most likely mean?

(A) allow heat or electricity to pass through
(B) behave according to a set of rules
(C) write instructions without taking part
(D) carry out and manage an activity

5 Rapid Tail

a mountain of work

Nadia volunteered to organize the club's old photographs for an anniversary display. She collected the first box from a cupboard beside the meeting room. A label gave the date of the earliest collection.

Thousands of mixed photographs needed sorting, identifying, and arranging, far more tasks than one afternoon could possibly hold.

Nadia placed the first box on a clear table. She planned to ask the club members for help at their next meeting in the library. Nadia still faced **a mountain of work**, but she hoped not to do it alone.

Part A. As used in this passage, what does the phrase "a mountain of work" most likely mean?

(A) work that must be completed on a high slope
(B) one difficult task that is already finished
(C) work hidden where nobody can find it
(D) a great many demanding tasks still ahead

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "She collected the first box from a cupboard beside the meeting room."
(B) "far more tasks than one afternoon could possibly hold"
(C) "Nadia volunteered to organize the club's old photographs"
(D) "Nadia placed the first box on a clear table."

River Talk (bonus, not scored): tailout

Below the deep bend, the pool grew shallow and the current sped up over gravel. The angler watched the **tailout** where the pool emptied into the next run.

Where is the tailout of the pool?

_____

_____