



ELA Virtual Learning

6th Grade ELA

Context Clues

April 13, 2020



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Lesson: April 13, 2020

Objectives/Learning Targets:

Students will:

- use context clues to determine the meaning of words and phrases.
- write responses using complete sentences with standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar.



Warm-up

Your pen pal in Texas has just lived through a natural disaster called “Hurricane Harvey.” Your pen pal is in high school, so she tends to use difficult words. Read her letter because it is up to you to figure out what she means based on the clues she has given.

August 19

My Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you well. My town just experienced a crazy tropical cyclone! The hurricane drenched the townspeople and all in its path! It was the first time in my life that a storm that significant hit landfall, so it was not by any means infinitesimal. It meandered over the whole state of Texas for four long days, which means it took its time to leave.

After all the raining, you know what came next: flooding! The waters flooded thousands of homes, and all those families were displaced, including mine. We had to stay in our gym at the school until the waters receded and we could see our houses again. It seemed like an eternity before we could return; for example, my dad grew a full beard before we were allowed to go back home!

*So, anything fun happen to you lately? Write me back and we can compare notes!
Your friend,
Gale*

Warm-up

It's time for some detective work! Take each underlined word from Gale's letter and use the clues in the text to figure out their meaning!

Draw, label and complete the following three-column chart on notebook paper:

<u>UNDERLINED WORD</u>	<u>CLUE</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
<i>tropical cyclone</i>		
<i>infinitesimal</i>		
<i>meandered</i>		
<i>receded</i>		
<i>eternity</i>		



Context Clues: YOU BE THE DETECTIVE!



What are context clues?

- Information from the text that allows you to decide the meaning of unknown words in the text you are reading.
- As a reader you must act similar to a detective and put together clues from sentences surrounding an unknown word in order to make an intelligent “guess” as to what the definition of a word is.

$$\boxed{\text{Unknown/Mystery word}} + \boxed{\text{Context Clue(s)}} = \boxed{\text{Meaning}}$$



Learn

Types of Context Clues

Authors use many different types of context clues when writing texts. Five of these types are:

- **Definition context clues**-the definition of the word is in the text
- **Synonym context clues**-another word in the text means the same or nearly the same as the unknown word
- **Antonym context clues**-another word in the text means the opposite or nearly the opposite as the unknown word
- **Example context clues**-an example of the unknown word is given in the text
- **Word Part context clues**-use a part of the word, such as a prefix, suffix or root, to figure out the meaning of the unknown word



Warm-up Answers

My Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you well. My town just experienced a crazy tropical cyclone! The hurricane drenched the townspeople and all in its path! It was the first time in my life that a storm that significant hit landfall, so it was not by any means infinitesimal. It meandered over the whole state of Texas for four long days, which means it took its time to leave.

After all the raining, you know what came next: flooding! The waters flooded thousands of homes, and all those families were displaced, including mine. We had to stay in our gym at the school until the waters receded and we could see our houses again. It seemed like an eternity before we could return; for example, my dad grew a full beard before we were allowed to go back home!

So, anything fun happen to you lately? Write me back and we can compare notes!

*Your friend,
Gale*

What does the phrase “**tropical cyclone**” mean?

- In the sentence that follows the phrase, Gale calls the “tropical cyclone” a hurricane. This is a synonym clue.
- The most logical guess would be that a “tropical cyclone” is a hurricane.

What does the word “**infinitesimal**” mean?

- In the sentence, Gale calls the event “significant.” This is a antonym clue.
- The most logical guess would be that “infinitesimal” is small or insignificant.



Warm-up Answers

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After all the raining, you know what came next: flooding! The waters flooded thousands of homes, and all those families were displaced, including mine. We had to stay in our gym at the school until the waters receded and we could see our houses again. It seemed like an eternity before we could return; for example, my dad grew a full beard before we were allowed to go back home!

*So, anything fun happen to you lately? Write me back and we can compare notes!
Your friend,
Gale*

What does the word “meandered” mean?

- In the sentence, Gale says the hurricane “took its time to leave.” This is a definition clue.
- The most logical guess would be that meandered means to take time/move slowly.

What does the word “receded” mean?

- The word “receded” can be broken into parts to figure out the meaning of the word. This is a word part clue.
- The prefix “re” means again and the root word “cede” means go. By putting the word part meanings together, I can determine the meaning of the word as go back again.



Warm-up Answers

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After all the raining, you know what came next: flooding! The waters flooded thousands of homes, and all those families were displaced, including mine. We had to stay in our gym at the school until the waters receded and we could see our houses again. It seemed like an eternity before we could return; for example, my dad grew a full beard before we were allowed to go back home!

So, anything fun happen to you lately? Write me back and we can compare notes!

*Your friend,
Gale*

What does the word “**eternity**” mean?

- In the sentence, Gale says that her dad grew a full beard before they were allowed to go home. This is an example clue.
- If her dad grew a beard during the time they were away from their home, the most logical guess would be that the word eternity means a very long time.

Warm-up Answers

<u>UNDERLINED WORD</u>	<u>CLUE</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
<i>tropical cyclone</i>	<i>Hurricane (Synonym)</i>	<i>Hurricane</i>
<i>infinitesimal</i>	<i>Significant (Antonym)</i>	<i>Small; insignificant</i>
<i>meandered</i>	<i>Took its time to leave (Definition)</i>	<i>Move slowly</i>
<i>receded</i>	<i>re - again cede - to go (Word Part)</i>	<i>To go back again</i>
<i>eternity</i>	<i>Grew a full beard (Example)</i>	<i>A very long time</i>



Practice

Read the following article about a natural disaster in Texas and answer the questions that follow the article (page 2) on notebook paper.

➤ [Texas Strong](#)



Use the equation to help answer the questions!

After reading the article and answering the multiple choice questions, answer the following question on notebook paper:

How do context clues help you better understand the meaning of the passage? Give examples from the passage as support.

Don't forget to use RACE!

Restate
Restate the question by turning it into a statement.

Answer
Answer all parts of the question.

Cite
Give examples and evidence from the text.
"the text states..." "in paragraph 4..."

Explain
Explain how your evidence supports your answer.
"this shows that..." "this means..."



Practice Answer Key

Multiple Choice Answers: (1) C, (2) A, (3) B, (4) D, (5) A, (6) D, (7) B, (8) B, (9) B, (10) C

- Check your answers to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer the question?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using details from the article?

Sample Proficient Answer: *(Answers may vary)*

1. *The context clues help me better understand the text by helping me learn how to define unknown words without having to spend time looking them up. When I take the time to use context clues it also helps me better understand the passage. For example, in paragraph 2 it says “the catastrophic flooding resulted in hundreds of thousands of flooded homes.” Looking at context clues I notice it said many houses flooded which is a very bad thing. This makes me believe catastrophic is a word to show how devastating and horrible this event was and the word choice emphasized that.*

Additional Resources

If you want to learn more...

Context Clues

-Click [HERE](#) for a Context Clues Game



Hurricane Harvey

-Click [HERE](#) for more information about Hurricane Harvey

-Click [HERE](#) to watch a *Remembering Hurricane Harvey* video

