



Who, what, when, where, why & how

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Identifying the 5Ws and H—**who**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why** and **how**—can help you better understand what you read.

Read the story. As you do, annotate (underline or circle) for the 5Ws and H.

Best friends Miles and Jonah usually didn't get excited about school projects. They would rather be outside playing baseball instead of doing homework. In class this week, however, they are learning about some of the local wildlife that needs protection. Today, they learned about a bird called the Salt Marsh Sparrow.



These sparrows build their nests in salt marshes. Their nests are destroyed when bad storms come and cause the sea level to rise. Without help, more than 90% of their population may disappear over the next 50 years. Miles and Jonah both care a lot about animals, so this information bothered them.

They were excited when, for homework, their teacher challenged them to create a model of something that would help the Salt Marsh Sparrows. "The sky is the limit," their teacher had said, "as long as you can explain how it will help these birds. Work on it over the weekend and bring it to school on Monday so you can share it with the class!"

On Friday afternoon, Miles went over to Jonah's house to start brainstorming. They used the internet to do some research and learn more about Salt Marsh Sparrows. They learned that they usually build nests that are partially closed on top to prevent water from getting in if their area starts to flood! After discussing possible solutions, the two boys agreed on an idea: building tall wood tables that the birds could build their nests on. On top of the table, they would put big boxes filled with plants from the local swamp. This way, the birds would feel at home... but, even if the area flooded, their nests would still be safe!

On Saturday, Miles and Jonah met back at Jonah's house and gathered all of the materials they would need to build their model. Thankfully, Jonah's dad had a big workbench and lots of tools and building supplies. He worked with Miles and Jonah to build a small model of the type of table they were envisioning. Then they built a box to go on top of the table that could hold dirt and support plant growth.



On Sunday, Miles, Jonah and Jonah's mom went to the local garden store. They spoke with the store owner about the types of plants that normally grow in local marshes. When the store owner learned why they were asking, she gave them some local wetland plants for free! When they got home, Miles and Jonah carefully planted the new plants in the box. They made sure not to crowd it too much, so there would still be room for a nest. Then they stepped back and admired their work. Even though this was just a small model, they were proud of what they had accomplished. They couldn't wait to share their work with their classmates tomorrow... and maybe even try to make their model into something real!

Then fill in the blanks:**Who:** _____**What:** _____**When:** _____**Where:** _____**Why:** _____

How: _____



Answers

Answers may vary slightly.

- Who:** Two best friends, Miles and Jonah
- What:** Built a solution to help the Salt Marsh Swallows
- When:** One weekend
- Where:** At Jonah's house
- Why:** Their teacher challenged the class to design a solution to help the sparrows.
- How:** They researched ideas, got help from Jonah's dad and had plants donated by a local garden store!