

► Read the Vocabulary Words and their definitions. Then write the Vocabulary Word in parentheses () that best completes each sentence.

rations: goods that would be scarce if they were not controlled; limited portions

homestead: to settle on a free piece of land and farm it

brooded: moped and worried about something

concocted: invented or developed something

perch: a place for a bird to rest

undeniable: sure; beyond question

despair: a feeling of hopelessness

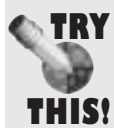


1. The idea that pioneer life would be difficult was _____.
(undeniable, rations)
2. Still, it was a good opportunity to _____ and build something for the future. (perch, homestead)
3. The year the crops failed, there were small _____ of flour and meat.
(rations, despair)
4. The settlers could not give in to _____, for they had to keep going.
(rations, despair)
5. From its _____, a little bird sang a happy song. (homestead, perch)
6. The farmer had _____ over his difficulties for days, but the bird's song made him feel better. (brooded, concocted)
7. He _____ a plan that he thought would work. (brooded, concocted)

► Answer each question, using Vocabulary Words.

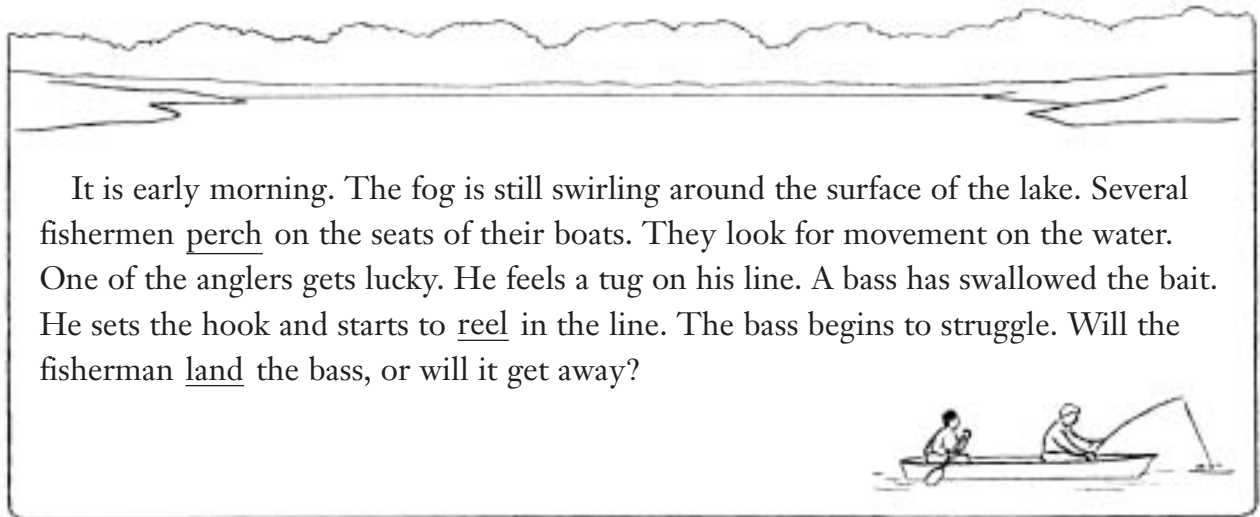
8. Write two Vocabulary Words that are used as nouns.

9. Write two Vocabulary Words that are used as verbs.



TRY THIS! Another definition of *perch* is "a type of fish." Write a sentence for this meaning of the word, as well as a sentence for the meaning you learned earlier. Draw a picture to show each meaning.

- Read the paragraph. Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined words. Then circle the letter of the best answer to each question.



It is early morning. The fog is still swirling around the surface of the lake. Several fishermen perch on the seats of their boats. They look for movement on the water. One of the anglers gets lucky. He feels a tug on his line. A bass has swallowed the bait. He sets the hook and starts to reel in the line. The bass begins to struggle. Will the fisherman land the bass, or will it get away?

- 1 What does the word *perch* mean in this paragraph?
- A** a type of fish
B a stand for a bird
C to sit atop something
D a covered outdoor space attached to a house

**Tip**

Find the word *perch* in the paragraph. What three words follow it? Which answer choice makes sense when you say “*perch* on the seats”?

- 2 What meaning does *reel* have in this paragraph?
- F** actual or true
G a kind of lively dance
H a kind of gold coin
J to pull in by winding

**Tip**

Find the word *reel* in the paragraph, and notice how it is spelled. Now think about the topic of the paragraph. Which meaning makes sense for that topic?

- 3 What does *land* mean in this paragraph?
- A** catch
B come down from the air
C solid part of the earth's surface
D ground or soil

**Tip**

Look at the last sentence. If the fisherman doesn't *land* the fish, it will get away. Select the answer choice that means the opposite of “get away.”

