

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary • Context Clues

Sometimes in your reading you see a word you don't know. You can use **context clues**—the words and sentences around the unfamiliar word—to figure out its meaning.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then answer the questions.

**L**ast summer, my family and I spent two weeks living in a log cabin. The cabin was in a clearing, where the trees had been cut down. Life in a log cabin is very different from life in the city. You hang your clothes on pegs sticking out of the wall. Even pots and pans hang on pegs in the kitchen. Under the kitchen rug was a trap door. It led downstairs to the cellar.

My brother and I loved the cellar. We had to walk down very steep stairs almost like a ladder! The cellar was filled with large, covered barrels containing dried corn and other food. Also, the cellar was very cool. Food does not spoil where it is cool. So the food in the cellar stayed fresh. The cellar was a great place to be on a hot summer day!

1. What does *clearing* mean in this passage? What clues help you determine the meaning?

**an area from which the trees have been removed; Clues: where the trees had been cut down**

2. What does *pegs* mean in this passage? What clues help you determine the meaning?

**hooks on the wall; Clues: hang [things] from pegs sticking out of the wall**

3. What does *cellar* mean in this passage? What clues help you determine the meaning?

**a room below a house; Clues: trap door, downstairs**

4. What does *steep* mean in this passage? What clues help you determine the meaning?

**at a sharp angle or incline; Clues: almost like a ladder**

5. What does *barrels* mean in this passage? What clues help you determine the meaning?

**large containers; Clues: containing dried corn and other food**



**Home Activity** Your child identified and used context clues to understand new words in a passage. Work with your child to identify unfamiliar words in a paragraph, then have your child find context clues to help with the understanding of new words. Confirm the meaning with your child.