Ice, Grip, and Evidence

Turn research findings into a careful recommendation.

6.RL.24 "Write about research findings independently over short and/or extended periods of time."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number three findings from the named sources, underline the sentence that connects findings to the choice, and circle one detail that limits a simple answer.

What Should Go on an Icy Walkway?

(1) On a freezing morning, a school custodian must choose what to spread on an icy walkway. Would salt or sand be more useful? A short research report can start with a clear question, then group findings from trustworthy sources. The Federal Highway Administration explains that road salt lowers the freezing point of water. When ice begins to melt, the salty water can stay liquid at temperatures where plain water would freeze. Salt does not add heat to the walkway. It changes when water freezes.

(2) Sand solves a different problem. The Federal Highway Administration describes sand as a material that improves tire grip on slippery roads. On a walkway, its rough grains can also give shoes better grip, but sand does not melt ice. Salt can help remove ice, yet it works more slowly as the air gets colder. These findings suggest that the choice depends on the problem: Is the goal to melt ice or to improve grip right away? A report should explain that difference rather than call one material the winner.

(3) Another source adds a cost to consider. The U.S. Geological Survey reports that salt used on roads can wash into streams and increase chloride in the water. Too much chloride can harm freshwater life. Sand has a drawback too: loose grains may need to be swept up after the ice is gone. Taken together, the findings support a careful plan, not a claim that one choice is always best. A writer should name the sources, connect the findings to the question, and point out what still needs checking, such as the walkway's temperature.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write one sentence that reports what the Federal Highway Administration found about how salt affects ice. Name the source in your sentence.

2. Use the findings to explain why a report should not describe sand and salt as doing the same job.

3. How does the U.S. Geological Survey's finding make a recommendation to use salt less simple?

4. Why would the claim “Sand is always the better choice” go beyond the findings? Include one detail the report says still needs checking.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 95 word recommendation to the school custodian about an icy walkway. Use findings from both named sources, explain a trade-off, and identify one detail to check before deciding. Write in your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Ice, Grip, and Evidence

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.24

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number three findings from the named sources, underline the sentence that connects findings to the choice, and circle one detail that limits a simple answer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write one sentence that reports what the Federal Highway Administration found about how salt affects ice. Name the source in your sentence.	**The Federal Highway Administration explains that salt lowers water's freezing point, which helps ice melt.**
2	Use the findings to explain why a report should not describe sand and salt as doing the same job.	**Salt helps melt ice, while sand improves grip but does not melt ice.**
3	How does the U.S. Geological Survey's finding make a recommendation to use salt less simple?	**Salt can wash into streams and raise chloride levels, which can harm freshwater life.**
4	Why would the claim "Sand is always the better choice" go beyond the findings? Include one detail the report says still needs checking.	**Sand adds grip but does not melt ice, so the better choice depends on the goal. The walkway's temperature still needs checking.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask the custodian to check the walkway's temperature and whether students need grip right away. The Federal Highway Administration explains that salt helps melt ice, while sand adds grip without melting it. If the walkway is very cold, sand may help shoes grip while salt works slowly. However, salt can wash into streams and raise chloride levels, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. I would use only what is needed and check how the walkway will be cleared afterward.

Accept recommendations that accurately distinguish melting from grip, use findings from both named sources, explain a trade-off, and name a relevant detail to check. The recommended choice may vary if the evidence supports it.