Clues from Alabama

Compare three experts who study people and the past.

SS24.3.7 "Compare and contrast the roles of anthropologists, archaeologists, and paleontologists."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one clue each expert studies. Circle a sentence that shows how two experts' work is alike.

Three Ways to Study Clues

1. At an Alabama history center, three experts study different clues about life. An anthropologist studies people and their cultures, including people living today. She might talk with an Indigenous Alabama artist about how basket patterns are taught in a family. She listens to what the artist chooses to share. Stories and customs help her learn how people keep traditions and make changes over time.

2. An archaeologist also studies people, but often looks for objects people left behind. At an old campsite in Alabama, he might study pieces of a clay pot. He notes where each piece was found and asks how people made or used the pot. In this case, he learns from objects rather than talking with an artist. Both experts study people and their lives.

3. A paleontologist studies fossils, remains or traces of ancient life preserved in rock. In Alabama, she might examine a fossil fish in a rock layer. The fish was an animal, not a pot made by people. She asks what the fossil shows about animals that lived long ago. Like the archaeologist, she studies clues from the past, but their clues answer different questions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are the anthropologist and archaeologist alike? What clue does each study in the passage?

2. How are the archaeologist and paleontologist alike, and how are their clues different?

3. Why would the paleontologist study the fossil fish instead of the clay pot? Compare what the paleontologist and archaeologist want to learn.

4. How is what the anthropologist learns from the artist different from what the paleontologist learns from the fish fossil?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

An Alabama museum has three new jobs: learn how families share songs today, study a stone tool from an old campsite, and study a fossil leaf in rock. Write four sentences: name the best expert for each job and explain why, then tell how two of these experts are alike.

ANSWER KEY

Clues from Alabama

GRADE 3 · SS24.3.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one clue each expert studies. Circle a sentence that shows how two experts' work is alike. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the anthropologist and archaeologist alike? What clue does each study in the passage?	**Both study people and their lives. The anthropologist learns from an artist's stories, while the archaeologist studies pieces of a clay pot.**
2	How are the archaeologist and paleontologist alike, and how are their clues different?	**Both study clues from the past. The archaeologist studies a pot made by people, while the paleontologist studies a fossil fish.**
3	Why would the paleontologist study the fossil fish instead of the clay pot? Compare what the paleontologist and archaeologist want to learn.	**The paleontologist wants to learn about animals that lived long ago. The archaeologist wants to learn how people made or used the pot.**
4	How is what the anthropologist learns from the artist different from what the paleontologist learns from the fish fossil?	**The anthropologist learns how people keep and change traditions. The paleontologist learns about animals that lived long ago.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An anthropologist could talk with families about how they share songs because she studies people and their cultures today. An archaeologist could study the stone tool because it is an object people left behind. A paleontologist could study the fossil leaf because it is a trace of ancient life in rock. The archaeologist and paleontologist both use clues from long ago to learn about the past.

Accept other accurate comparisons supported by the passage. In Part 3, look for the correct expert for each job, a reason for each choice, and a valid similarity in four sentences.