

Field Note Fixes

Read a model field note and notice careful writing choices.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2 “Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline capital letters that begin names, circle quotation marks and end punctuation in spoken words, and number each comma in a list. These marks show how writers make a clear message.

Bird Watch Notes

- ① On Saturday, April 18, the Riverbend Nature Club visited Pine Ridge Park to watch migrating birds. Ms. Chen gave each student a small notebook, a pencil, and a pair of binoculars. Near the pond, Jordan spotted a blue heron standing still in the shallow water. The bird waited patiently before striking at a fish with its long bill.
- ② “Listen for its call,” Ms. Chen said, “then write what you notice.” The class heard a rough, croaking sound from the cattails. Jordan's notes described the heron's gray-blue feathers, yellow bill, and slow steps. He spelled carefully because a clear field note helps another reader understand what the writer saw. Later, a breeze rippled the pond's surface.
- ③ Before leaving, the club returned the binoculars and packed its supplies. Ms. Chen asked, “What details will help you remember this visit?” Students wrote dates, places, and observations in their notebooks. At home, Jordan showed his notes to his sister, Elena. “I want to visit Pine Ridge Park again,” he told her. His careful writing made the day easy to share.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Copy the sentence that names three things in Jordan's notes. Keep the commas and the word and.

2 Copy the name of the place the club visited. Use capital letters exactly as they appear.

3 Copy Ms. Chen's question exactly. Include the quotation marks and question mark.

4 Write the word from paragraph 2 that tells how Jordan spelled. Spell it exactly.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences for a nature-club field note about an animal observation. Include one properly capitalized name, one list of three items with commas, and one sentence a person says in quotation marks. Check your spelling and end punctuation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, underline capital letters that begin names, circle quotation marks and end punctuation in spoken words, and number each comma in a list. These marks show how writers make a clear message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the sentence that names three things in Jordan's notes. Keep the commas and the word and.	Jordan's notes described the heron's gray-blue feathers, yellow bill, and slow steps.
2	Copy the name of the place the club visited. Use capital letters exactly as they appear.	Pine Ridge Park
3	Copy Ms. Chen's question exactly. Include the quotation marks and question mark.	"What details will help you remember this visit?"
4	Write the word from paragraph 2 that tells how Jordan spelled. Spell it exactly.	carefully

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Monday, I visited Oak Hill Trail with my cousin Maya. We noted a rabbit, two tracks, and a chewed leaf. "I see fresh tracks," Maya said.

Accept three original sentences about an animal observation that include a correctly capitalized proper noun, a three-item comma series, and correctly punctuated direct speech. Check sentence-ending punctuation and reasonable grade-level spelling.