Zoo Notes Matter

Notice how careful conventions make field notes clear.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.2 "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 Underline each capitalized name, circle every comma that separates items in a series, and number each word with an apostrophe. These marks will help you notice careful writing choices.

Notes from the Otter Exhibit

1 On a clear autumn morning, a student team visited the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Their goal was simple: observe how animal-care staff prepare food for Asian small-clawed otters. At the kitchen window, Maya recorded fish, clams, and chopped vegetables on her clipboard. "The otters need variety," explained keeper Luis Hernandez. He measured each portion carefully, because an animal's diet affects its energy, growth, and health. The group watched quietly, asked thoughtful questions, and compared notes before leaving.

2 Later, the team entered the otters' habitat, where water rushed over smooth rocks. Hernandez pointed to a wooden den and said, "That space gives the animals a private place to rest." One otter floated on its back; another searched beneath a log. Maya noticed that the keepers used gloves, buckets, and disinfectant to keep work areas clean. The zoo's veterinary team also checks the otters regularly. During an exam, veterinarians may listen to an otter's heart, examine its teeth, and record its weight.

3 Before the visit ended, the class made a plan for its report. Jordan would sketch the habitat, Priya would organize the observations, and Maya would check the facts. Their teacher reminded them to spell scientific words correctly, especially veterinarian and disinfectant. The report would include a map, a data table, and a short conclusion. Back at school, the students revised every sentence. They checked names, quotation marks, commas, and end marks so readers could understand the visit clearly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the three foods on Maya's clipboard exactly as they appear in paragraph 1.

2. Copy the two capitalized place names from the first sentence of paragraph 1.

3. In paragraph 2, copy the word that has an apostrophe after a plural noun.

4. Copy the two words in paragraph 3 that the teacher says students should spell correctly.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about an imaginary visit to an animal-care place. Include a capitalized place name, a list of three supplies with commas, and a possessive noun with an apostrophe. Check the spelling of every word.

ANSWER KEY

Zoo Notes Matter

GRADE 7 · L.7.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each capitalized name, circle every comma that separates items in a series, and number each word with an apostrophe. These marks will help you notice careful writing choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the three foods on Maya's clipboard exactly as they appear in paragraph 1.	**fish, clams, and chopped vegetables**
2	Copy the two capitalized place names from the first sentence of paragraph 1.	**Smithsonian's National Zoo; Washington, D.C.**
3	In paragraph 2, copy the word that has an apostrophe after a plural noun.	**otters'**
4	Copy the two words in paragraph 3 that the teacher says students should spell correctly.	**veterinarian; disinfectant**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday, our class visited Riverbend Animal Shelter. We donated towels, toys, and blankets for the dogs' rooms. A veterinarian showed us how the shelter keeps each animal healthy.

Accept the passage-based answers exactly, including punctuation and capitalization. For the writing task, accept any three-sentence response that includes all required convention features and uses standard spelling.