Evidence Trail

Track how reasons and evidence support an author's point.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8 "Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's main point, circle the three reasons that support it, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside each detail that gives evidence for the matching reason.

Why Our Town Needs Wetlands

(1) Our town should protect the wetlands near the river. Wetlands are areas where water covers or soaks the soil for much of the year. They are not empty, useless land. During heavy rain, they can hold extra water like a sponge. This helps keep water from rushing quickly into streets, homes, and the nearby river.

(2) Protecting wetlands also supports local animals. Frogs lay eggs in shallow water, and young turtles find food among wetland plants. Birds such as herons hunt fish and insects there. When a wetland is filled to make a parking lot, these animals lose shelter, food, or places to raise their young. Saving wetlands keeps these habitats available.

(3) Wetlands can improve water quality, too. As water moves slowly through wetland plants and soil, some dirt and pollutants are trapped before the water reaches a river or lake. Cleaner water benefits people who fish, swim, or get drinking water from nearby sources. For these reasons, town leaders should protect wetlands instead of building on them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What main point does the author support throughout the passage?

2. What reason in paragraph 1 supports the author's main point? Give one detail that serves as evidence for that reason.

3. Which point is supported by the details about frogs, turtles, and herons? Explain how the details support that point.

4. How does the evidence about dirt and pollutants support the author's point that wetlands should be protected?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-argument about one improvement your school should make. State your point in sentence 1, give a reason in sentence 2, and give a specific piece of evidence or an example in sentence 3.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Trail

GRADE 5 · RI.5.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main point, circle the three reasons that support it, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside each detail that gives evidence for the matching reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main point does the author support throughout the passage?	**Town leaders should protect wetlands near the river instead of building on them.**
2	What reason in paragraph 1 supports the author's main point? Give one detail that serves as evidence for that reason.	**Reason: Wetlands can help prevent flooding. Evidence: During heavy rain, they hold extra water and keep it from rushing quickly into streets, homes, and the river.**
3	Which point is supported by the details about frogs, turtles, and herons? Explain how the details support that point.	**The point is that wetlands support local animals. The details show that animals use wetlands for eggs, food, hunting, shelter, and raising young.**
4	How does the evidence about dirt and pollutants support the author's point that wetlands should be protected?	**It shows that wetlands can trap some dirt and pollutants, which helps create cleaner water for people and nearby waterways.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a refillable water station. It would reduce the number of plastic bottles students throw away. For example, students could refill their own bottles instead of taking a new plastic bottle each day.

Accept clear paraphrases of the main point, reasons, and evidence. For the open task, accept any school improvement if the response has exactly three sentences and includes a point, a supporting reason, and relevant evidence or an example.