Monarch Mystery

Use questions, aspects, and sources to guide a short investigation.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.7 "Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Jada's research question, circle each source she uses, and number the three aspects she investigates to see how a researcher gathers facts from different places.

Following the Monarchs

1. Jada began a short research project with one question: How do monarch butterflies survive their yearly journey? She decided to investigate three aspects: their body changes, the route they travel, and the food they need. Before searching, Jada wrote these aspects in her notebook. This helped her choose facts that answered her question instead of collecting random details.

2. First, Jada used a library book about insects to study body changes. Its diagrams showed that monarchs store fat as adults before their fall migration. Next, she used a migration map from Journey North, a citizen-science project. The map showed reports of monarch sightings as the butterflies moved south. Jada recorded the book title and the map website beside her notes.

3. For the food aspect, Jada read a state wildlife agency webpage. It explained that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves, while adult monarchs drink nectar from many flowers. Jada compared this information with a photo she took of milkweed in a neighborhood garden. Her notes led to an answer: monarchs need energy, a travel route, and places with the right plants.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What research question did Jada investigate?

2. What three aspects of monarch survival did Jada choose to investigate?

3. What source did Jada use to investigate the travel route, and what fact did it show?

4. How did Jada use her notes to answer her research question?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal or place you want to know about. Write one research question and three different aspects to investigate, use at least two trustworthy sources to find a fact for each aspect, then write a two- or three-sentence answer to your question.

ANSWER KEY # Monarch Mystery

GRADE 4 · W.4.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Jada's research question, circle each source she uses, and number the three aspects she investigates to see how a researcher gathers facts from different places. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What research question did Jada investigate?	**How do monarch butterflies survive their yearly journey?**
2	What three aspects of monarch survival did Jada choose to investigate?	**Their body changes, the route they travel, and the food they need.**
3	What source did Jada use to investigate the travel route, and what fact did it show?	**She used a Journey North migration map. It showed reports of monarch sightings as the butterflies moved south.**
4	How did Jada use her notes to answer her research question?	**She combined her facts to conclude that monarchs need energy, a travel route, and places with the right plants.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Research question: How do beavers change a stream habitat? Aspects: dams, homes, and food. Source notes: A National Park Service page explains that beaver dams slow water and create ponds; a National Geographic Kids article explains that beaver lodges can have underwater entrances; a Smithsonian National Zoo page explains that beavers eat bark, leaves, and water plants. Answer: Beavers change stream habitats by building dams that slow water and create ponds. Their lodges shelter them, and they eat plants near the water.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage answers when it includes the correct research question, aspects, sources, and facts. For Part 3, accept any focused question, three distinct aspects, facts connected to at least two trustworthy sources, and a brief answer that uses the gathered facts.