Otter Research Notes

Choose, sort, and cite useful facts.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.8 "Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each fact Maya kept, circle each category label, and number the three sources in her source list to show how she chose, organized, and credited research information.

Maya's Sea Otter Report

1. When Maya prepared a report about sea otters, she did not copy every fact she found. She chose facts that answered her questions: Where do sea otters live? What do they eat? How do they stay warm? In the library book Sea Otters by Laura Marsh, she learned that sea otters live along the North Pacific coast. She wrote that fact on a note card labeled Habitat.

2. At the Monterey Bay Aquarium website, Maya found that sea otters eat animals such as clams, crabs, and sea urchins. She placed this information under Food. A second website, from NOAA Fisheries, explained that sea otters have very thick fur. Air trapped in the fur helps keep them warm in cold water. Maya put this note under Body Features.

3. Before writing, Maya checked her cards. She kept notes about habitat, food, and body features because they fit her report questions. She left out a note about a zoo's opening hours because it did not help explain sea otters. At the bottom of her page, she listed her sources: Sea Otters by Laura Marsh, Monterey Bay Aquarium website, and NOAA Fisheries website.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Maya needs to answer, "What do sea otters eat?" Copy one relevant note and name its category.

2. Which fact did Maya decide not to use? Explain why it was not relevant to her report.

3. What source did Maya use for her Body Features note? Write the source name and one fact from it.

4. Write the three sources exactly as Maya listed them.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Research an animal using two print or digital sources. Write four relevant notes in at least two labeled categories, then list both sources.

ANSWER KEY

Otter Research Notes

GRADE 4 · W.4.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each fact Maya kept, circle each category label, and number the three sources in her source list to show how she chose, organized, and credited research information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Maya needs to answer, "What do sea otters eat?" Copy one relevant note and name its category.	**Sea otters eat clams, crabs, and sea urchins. Category: Food.**
2	Which fact did Maya decide not to use? Explain why it was not relevant to her report.	**She left out the zoo's opening hours because they did not help explain sea otters or answer her report questions.**
3	What source did Maya use for her Body Features note? Write the source name and one fact from it.	**NOAA Fisheries website. Sea otters have very thick fur, and trapped air in the fur helps keep them warm.**
4	Write the three sources exactly as Maya listed them.	**Sea Otters by Laura Marsh; Monterey Bay Aquarium website; NOAA Fisheries website.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Food: Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves. Adult monarchs drink nectar from flowers. Migration: Eastern North American monarchs spend winter in central Mexico. In autumn, they travel south to wintering sites. Sources: “Monarch Butterfly,” National Geographic Kids; “Monarch Butterfly,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Accept equivalent wording when students copy a relevant fact and correctly name its category or source. For Part 3, accept four accurate, relevant notes in at least two clear categories and two identifiable sources.