Source Sleuth Notes

Read how one researcher gathers and sorts source notes.

ELA.3.C.4.1 "Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic from multiple sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the name of each source Maya uses. Underline one useful fact from each source that helps her learn about tree grates.

The Tree Grate Question

1. Maya wanted to find out why some city trees have metal grates around their trunks. She wrote her question in a notebook: How do tree grates help street trees? First, she read a library book about city parks. The book explained that grates cover soil while leaving space for rain and air to reach tree roots.

2. Next, Maya used a city forestry webpage. It said that a grate can protect loose soil near a busy sidewalk. Maya also interviewed Mr. Chen, a park worker. He told her that grates can help people notice a tree opening and avoid stepping on its roots. She copied only useful facts and wrote each source beside its information.

3. To organize her research, Maya made three labeled boxes in her notebook: Book, Webpage, and Interview. In the Book box, she wrote about rain and air reaching roots. In the Webpage box, she wrote about protecting soil. In the Interview box, she wrote about people avoiding roots. Her notes helped her answer the question using information from more than one source.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What question is Maya trying to answer?

2. Which source gives information about protecting soil near a busy sidewalk?

3. Write one useful fact from the book and one useful fact from Mr. Chen.

4. How did Maya organize her notes so she could use information from multiple sources?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a question you can research about an animal, plant, or place. Use two sources, then write your question and two labeled notes, each with a fact and the source name.

ANSWER KEY

Source Sleuth Notes

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the name of each source Maya uses. Underline one useful fact from each source that helps her learn about tree grates. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What question is Maya trying to answer?	**How do tree grates help street trees?**
2	Which source gives information about protecting soil near a busy sidewalk?	**The city forestry webpage.**
3	Write one useful fact from the book and one useful fact from Mr. Chen.	**The book says grates leave space for rain and air to reach roots. Mr. Chen says grates can help people avoid stepping on roots.**
4	How did Maya organize her notes so she could use information from multiple sources?	**She made labeled boxes for the Book, Webpage, and Interview and placed information from each source in its box.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How do monarch butterflies get food? Source 1, National Geographic Kids: Adult monarchs drink nectar from flowers. Source 2, U.S. Forest Service: Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves.

Accept a clear research question and two facts that are relevant to it. Each fact should name a different source and be organized so the source matches the information.