Mila's Research Trail

Read how a researcher uses sources and notes.

ELA.3.C.4 "Researching"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of Mila's sources. Circle the facts that help answer her research question.

A Garden Question

1. Mila wanted to learn why monarch butterflies visit some gardens. She wrote a research question: "What do monarch butterflies need in a garden?" First, she read a library book about butterflies. On a note card, she wrote that adult monarchs drink nectar from flowers. The book also said that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves, not flower nectar.

2. Next, Mila used a website from a nature museum. It explained that monarchs lay eggs on milkweed plants. The caterpillars hatch and eat the milkweed. Mila checked both sources. Since each source mentioned milkweed, she put a star by that idea. She did not copy every sentence. Instead, she wrote short notes in her own words.

3. Finally, Mila looked at a city garden center's plant guide. It listed milkweed as a plant for monarch caterpillars and nectar flowers as food for adult butterflies. Her notes helped her answer her question: A monarch garden needs milkweed and nectar flowers. Mila listed the title of each source so she could find the information again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What was Mila's research question?

2. Name two sources Mila used for her research.

3. What idea did both Mila's first two sources mention?

4. How did Mila make notes instead of copying whole sentences?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a research question about an animal you want to study. Name two sources you could use, and write one detail you would look for in each source.

ANSWER KEY

Mila's Research Trail

GRADE 3 · ELA.3.C.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the names of Mila's sources. Circle the facts that help answer her research question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was Mila's research question?	**What do monarch butterflies need in a garden?**
2	Name two sources Mila used for her research.	**Any two: a library book, a nature museum website, or a city garden center's plant guide.**
3	What idea did both Mila's first two sources mention?	**Milkweed is important for monarch caterpillars.**
4	How did Mila make notes instead of copying whole sentences?	**She wrote short notes in her own words.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Research question: What do beavers need to build a home? Source 1, a library book: I would look for materials beavers use. Source 2, a wildlife website: I would look for where beavers build dams.

Accept a clear animal research question, two reasonable sources, and one relevant detail to seek from each source. Sources may include books, trusted websites, interviews, or videos from reliable organizations.