Tree Fact Detectives

Use reliable sources and organized notes to answer a research question.

ELA.4.C.4.1 "Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic and using multiple valid sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the two sources Jordan used, underline the facts he recorded, and number the three note headings in the order they appear. These marks will show how he gathered and organized research.

Researching City Trees

1. Jordan wanted to answer the question, "How do city trees help people?" He did not begin by searching for one quick fact. First, he made a plan with three note headings: shade and cooling, cleaner air, and homes for wildlife. These headings helped him collect facts that matched his question. They also kept him from mixing different kinds of information on one page.

2. At the library, Jordan found a book by a forest scientist. He also used a webpage from the city forestry department. Both sources named their authors or organizations and gave dates. A snack company's advertisement about planting trees had no author and mainly tried to sell food, so Jordan did not use it. He checked whether the book and webpage agreed before writing a note.

3. Jordan wrote each note in his own words and placed it under a heading. Under shade and cooling, he noted that tree leaves block some sunlight from reaching sidewalks and buildings. Under homes for wildlife, he recorded that birds can nest in trees. On a source list, he wrote the book title and the webpage address. His organized notes helped him answer his question with information from two sources.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What research question guided Jordan's work?

2. Which two sources did Jordan decide were valid enough to use? Give one detail that made the sources useful.

3. How did Jordan's three note headings help him organize his research?

4. Why did Jordan leave out the snack company's advertisement?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a new science or community topic to research. Write one research question, name two valid sources, and make two note headings with one fact under each heading, naming the source for each fact.

ANSWER KEY

Tree Fact Detectives

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.C.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the two sources Jordan used, underline the facts he recorded, and number the three note headings in the order they appear. These marks will show how he gathered and organized research. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What research question guided Jordan's work?	**How do city trees help people?**
2	Which two sources did Jordan decide were valid enough to use? Give one detail that made the sources useful.	**He used a book by a forest scientist and a city forestry department webpage. They named authors or organizations and gave dates.**
3	How did Jordan's three note headings help him organize his research?	**The headings helped him collect facts that matched his question and kept different kinds of information from getting mixed together.**
4	Why did Jordan leave out the snack company's advertisement?	**It had no author and mainly tried to sell food.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Research question: How do beavers change a stream? Sources: National Park Service webpage, “Beavers,” and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources webpage, “Beaver.” Heading: Water flow. Fact: Beaver dams slow moving water and can form ponds. Source: National Park Service. Heading: Habitat. Fact: Beaver ponds can provide habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the book and city forestry webpage. For the open task, accept varied topics when the student includes a focused question, two credible sources, clear headings, and facts connected to named sources.