Beaver Fact Trail

Trace a question through organized research notes.

ELA.4.C.4 "Researching"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's research question, circle each source description, and box the two note headings to show how she gathered and organized information.

Maya Researches Beavers

1. When Maya's class studied wetlands, Maya chose a question: How do beavers change a pond? She began with a book from the school library called Beavers. The book explained that beavers build dams from branches, mud, and stones. A dam slows moving water. Maya wrote this fact under the heading "What a dam does" in her notes.

2. Next, Maya used a webpage from a state wildlife agency. It said that the deeper water behind a beaver dam can spread into nearby land and create a pond. The page also explained that ponds can provide homes for fish, frogs, and water birds. Maya placed these facts under a second heading, "Changes to the habitat."

3. Finally, Maya checked a National Park Service article about wetlands. The article described how wetlands can hold water and help reduce flooding. This source did not say that every beaver pond prevents floods, so Maya did not add that claim to her notes. By using more than one reliable source, Maya could organize facts that answered her question without guessing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What research question did Maya choose?

2. Which source gave Maya information about animals that can live in a pond? Include one detail from that source.

3. What two headings did Maya use to organize her notes from the book and webpage?

4. Why did Maya leave out the claim that every beaver pond prevents floods?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different animal that changes its habitat. Write a research question, create two note headings with one fact you would look for under each, and name two reliable sources you could use.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Fact Trail

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.C.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's research question, circle each source description, and box the two note headings to show how she gathered and organized information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What research question did Maya choose?	**How do beavers change a pond?**
2	Which source gave Maya information about animals that can live in a pond? Include one detail from that source.	**The state wildlife agency webpage. It said ponds can provide homes for fish, frogs, and water birds.**
3	What two headings did Maya use to organize her notes from the book and webpage?	**"What a dam does" and "Changes to the habitat."**
4	Why did Maya leave out the claim that every beaver pond prevents floods?	**The National Park Service article did not support the claim that every beaver pond prevents floods.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Research question: How do prairie dogs change grasslands? Heading 1, Burrows: Prairie dogs dig burrows with many entrances. Heading 2, Other animals: Some animals use abandoned prairie dog burrows for shelter. Reliable sources: a library nonfiction book about prairie dogs and a National Park Service webpage.

Accept a clear, researchable question about an animal other than a beaver. Accept two useful headings, relevant facts or information to seek, and two credible sources, such as nonfiction books, museum websites, government agency websites, or national park websites.