

Monarch Research Trail

Track a question, sources, and useful evidence.

ELA.5.C.4.1 "Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic and using multiple reliable and valid sources."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's research question. Circle each source name and write 1, 2, or 3 beside it in the order it appears, then box the information Maya took from each source.

Following Monarch Evidence

- ① To learn why monarch butterflies travel so far, Maya began with a clear question: What helps monarch butterflies survive their migration to Mexico? She chose the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website because it is a government agency that studies and protects wildlife. Its monarch page explained that monarchs use nectar from flowers for energy during migration. Maya recorded the fact on a note card and copied the website title.
- ② Next, Maya checked a page from Journey North, a project that collects migration sightings from people across North America. The page showed that observers report when they first see monarchs. Maya used this source for dates and locations, not for an explanation of how butterflies find food. She wrote "sighting reports" beside the source so she could remember what kind of information it gave.
- ③ Finally, Maya read an article from the Monarch Joint Venture, a partnership of groups that work to protect monarchs. The article said that planting native milkweed gives monarch caterpillars a food plant. Maya placed her notes in three groups: energy, sightings, and caterpillar food. Because each fact matched her question, she could use all three sources to answer it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What research question did Maya begin with?

2 Which source was useful for finding migration dates and locations? What information made it useful?

3 Why was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website a reliable source for Maya's research?

4 How did Maya organize her notes, and how did that help her answer her question?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a local animal and write one research question about it. Make a three-row research plan that lists three reliable sources, the information you will look for in each source, and two or three headings for organizing your notes.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's research question. Circle each source name and write 1, 2, or 3 beside it in the order it appears, then box the information Maya took from each source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What research question did Maya begin with?	What helps monarch butterflies survive their migration to Mexico?
2	Which source was useful for finding migration dates and locations? What information made it useful?	Journey North. It collects sightings reports from observers, including when they first see monarchs.
3	Why was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website a reliable source for Maya's research?	It is a government agency that studies and protects wildlife.
4	How did Maya organize her notes, and how did that help her answer her question?	She grouped notes by energy, sightings, and caterpillar food. The groups helped her use facts from all three sources that matched her question.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How can our schoolyard help honey bees find food? Source 1, USDA Agricultural Research Service: Look for information about nectar and pollen. Source 2, a state university extension website: Look for information about flowers that support bees. Source 3, a county extension office webpage: Look for information about plants that grow well nearby. Note headings: bee food, helpful flowers, and local plants.

Accept a researchable question about a local animal, three appropriate reliable sources, and a clear purpose for each source. Note headings should match the kinds of information the student plans to collect.