

Pill Bug Detectives

Ask, observe, and explain a natural-world question.

SC.2.N.1.1 “Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them in teams through free exploration and systematic observations, and generate appropriate explanations based on those explorations.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the question the team investigated. Circle the sentence that tells how they checked the tray at regular times, and put a box around the sentence that gives their explanation.

A Damp or Dry Choice?

- ① At recess, Maya saw small pill bugs under a damp log. Her team asked, “Do pill bugs choose damp places or dry places?” First, they gently looked in the garden and noticed pill bugs under leaves, stones, and logs.
- ② Next, the team put one dry paper towel and one damp paper towel in a tray. They placed five pill bugs in the middle. They watched quietly for five minutes and counted how many bugs were on each towel every minute.
- ③ The team wrote each count in a notebook. Most counts showed more pill bugs on the damp towel. They explained that pill bugs may choose damp places because they found more bugs there. Then they returned the bugs to the garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What question did Maya's team investigate?

2 How did the team make systematic observations?

3 What observation helped the team explain that pill bugs may choose damp places?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Plan a safe team investigation about whether more ants walk on sunny ground or shady ground. Write a question, tell how you will make three same-time observations, and tell what you will explain if one place has more ants in your counts.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the question the team investigated. Circle the sentence that tells how they checked the tray at regular times, and put a box around the sentence that gives their explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What question did Maya's team investigate?	The team investigated whether pill bugs choose damp places or dry places.
2	How did the team make systematic observations?	They watched for five minutes and counted the pill bugs on each towel every minute.
3	What observation helped the team explain that pill bugs may choose damp places?	Most of their counts showed more pill bugs on the damp towel.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our question is, "Do more ants walk on sunny ground or shady ground?" At 10:00, 10:05, and 10:10, we will count ants for one minute in equal-size sunny and shady spots. If sunny counts are higher, we will explain that more ants walked on sunny ground during our checks.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage answers. For Your Turn, accept a safe, testable question, three planned observations made at the same times using a fair comparison, and an explanation that matches the stated possible results.