

Evidence Together

Compare credible sources to build a balanced research claim.

4.T.RA.1.c "Consider and integrate information from research, including relevant and accurate evidence from two or more credible sources. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one piece of evidence from the National Park Service and one from the U.S. Geological Survey. Circle the sentence that combines both sources, and put a star beside the challenge it names.

What Beaver Dams Do

- ① Beavers are sometimes called nature's engineers because they build dams from branches, mud, and stones. These dams slow moving water and can create ponds. The National Park Service, a federal agency that studies and protects parks, explains that beaver ponds give fish, frogs, and water birds places to live. The agency reports that ponds may also hold water during dry times.
- ② Researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey, a science agency, also studied beaver ponds. Their studies found that ponds can trap sediment, tiny bits of soil carried by water. Trapping sediment can make water clearer downstream. The survey cautions that a dam can also block a stream for some fish, especially where people have changed the stream. A good report includes both results.
- ③ Together, the two sources show that beaver dams can help a habitat and can cause challenges. The National Park Service focuses on ponds as homes for animals and places that store water. The U.S. Geological Survey adds evidence about clearer water and possible barriers for fish. Because each source is a United States government science agency, its information is credible, but readers should compare the evidence before deciding where dams belong.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Name the two sources. Give one relevant fact each source provides about beaver dams.

2 How does the U.S. Geological Survey add new information to the National Park Service source?

3 A student claims, "Beaver dams always improve streams." Is this claim supported by both sources? Explain using evidence from the passage.

4 What makes these sources credible, according to the passage? Why is that important when researching beaver dams?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose an animal or environmental question that is not about beavers. Find two credible sources, such as a government agency, museum, university, or science organization. In 3 or 4 sentences, name your question and sources, give one accurate fact from each source, and explain what the facts show together.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one piece of evidence from the National Park Service and one from the U.S. Geological Survey. Circle the sentence that combines both sources, and put a star beside the challenge it names. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name the two sources. Give one relevant fact each source provides about beaver dams.	The National Park Service says beaver ponds provide homes for animals and may hold water during dry times. The U.S. Geological Survey says ponds can trap sediment and make water clearer downstream, but dams can block some fish.
2	How does the U.S. Geological Survey add new information to the National Park Service source?	It adds information about sediment, clearer water downstream, and possible problems for fish, while the National Park Service focuses on habitat and stored water.
3	A student claims, "Beaver dams always improve streams." Is this claim supported by both sources? Explain using evidence from the passage.	No. The National Park Service gives benefits, such as animal habitat and stored water, but the U.S. Geological Survey says dams can block streams for some fish.
4	What makes these sources credible, according to the passage? Why is that important when researching beaver dams?	They are United States government science agencies. Using credible sources helps a researcher make a claim based on trustworthy evidence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is, How can plastic harm sea turtles? NOAA Fisheries says that sea turtles can become tangled in plastic fishing gear. The Smithsonian's National Zoo explains that turtles may mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and eat them. Together, the sources show that plastic can harm turtles when it tangles them or when they swallow it.

Accept equivalent evidence from each source and explanations that combine benefits with a possible challenge. For Part 3, accept a different topic when the student names two credible sources, includes accurate evidence from each, and writes a combined conclusion.