Tracking Turtle Clues

Use credible sources to answer a focused research question.

4.T.RA.1 "Research & Inquiry: Conduct research to ask and answer questions that clarify, deepen, and extend understanding of a topic of interest using credible sources and communicating relevant and accurate information."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the research question, circle each source name, number the facts that answer the question, and put an X beside the detail that shows why one source was not trustworthy.

A Question About Hatchlings

1. Before a class wrote about sea turtles, they asked, "Why do young sea turtles face danger after they hatch?" They needed more than one trustworthy source. First, they read a webpage from NOAA, a United States science agency. The page explained that hatchlings usually move toward the brightest horizon, which is often moonlight reflecting on the ocean.

2. Next, students used a page from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. It said that lights near beaches can confuse hatchlings and lead them away from the water. A museum article from the Smithsonian added that birds, crabs, and fish may eat young turtles. These facts helped answer the question because they described dangers hatchlings actually meet.

3. One student found a social media post saying that all baby sea turtles travel safely in large groups. The post gave no author, date, or links to evidence, so the class did not use it. Instead, they combined facts from the agency and museum sources. Their answer was that hatchlings can be confused by beach lights and can be eaten by predators.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What research question guided the class's research?

2. Which source was more credible, the NOAA webpage or the social media post? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.

3. What relevant fact did the Smithsonian article add to the class's research?

4. Write one sentence that answers the class's research question using two supported facts from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic you wonder about. Find two credible sources, then write exactly three sentences: state your research question, name both sources and give a relevant fact from each, and explain how the facts answer your question.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.T.RA.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the research question, circle each source name, number the facts that answer the question, and put an X beside the detail that shows why one source was not trustworthy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What research question guided the class's research?	**Why do young sea turtles face danger after they hatch?**
2	Which source was more credible, the NOAA webpage or the social media post? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.	**The NOAA webpage was more credible. NOAA is a United States science agency, while the social media post had no author, date, or links to evidence.**
3	What relevant fact did the Smithsonian article add to the class's research?	**Birds, crabs, and fish may eat young sea turtles.**
4	Write one sentence that answers the class's research question using two supported facts from the passage.	**Young sea turtles can be confused by beach lights and can be eaten by predators.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is, How do clouds form? NASA Climate Kids says clouds form when water vapor condenses into tiny droplets or ice crystals, and the National Weather Service explains that clouds are made of water droplets or ice crystals. Together, these facts explain how water in the air becomes a cloud.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For Part 3, accept any focused question, two credible and named sources, relevant accurate facts, and a clear explanation connecting the facts to the question.