

# Source Sleuth Garden

Use author and organization clues to judge sources.

**4.T.RA.2.b** “Determine the credibility and relevance of a source text based on known information about the author and/or organization. (I)”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline facts that tell who made each source. Circle facts that show whether each source fits a pollinator garden in Maple Grove.

### Choosing Garden Sources

- ① Maple Grove Elementary plans a pollinator garden and needs information about native flowers. The student council finds a webpage from the State Department of Natural Resources. It is written by ecologist Dr. Lina Perez, who studies native plants for the department. The page explains which flowers grow in the state's soil and climate. It lists its research reports and the date it was updated.
- ② Next, the council sees a post called “Flowers I Like” on Max’s personal blog. Max says he enjoys taking flower photos during family trips. He does not tell where he learned about plants, and the post has no links to research. His list includes flowers from several states. The post could give garden ideas, but it may not help choose flowers for Maple Grove.
- ③ A third source is a fact sheet from the county university extension office. The fact sheet is signed by Maya Chen, a horticulture educator who teaches local gardeners. It describes sunlight, water, and bloom times for native flowers. It also tells readers to check the plant label before buying. Because the office serves the county, its information is useful for the school's nearby garden.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Name two details that make the State Department of Natural Resources webpage credible.

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2 Which source is least credible for choosing native flowers for Maple Grove, and why?

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3 Which source is most directly relevant to the school's nearby garden? Use one passage detail to explain.

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4 How does what you know about Dr. Lina Perez and Max help you judge their sources differently?

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Pick a school topic, such as playground safety, weather, or recycling. In exactly two sentences, name a source you would use, identify its author or organization, and explain why it is both credible and relevant.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline facts that tell who made each source. Circle facts that show whether each source fits a pollinator garden in Maple Grove. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                 | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Name two details that make the State Department of Natural Resources webpage credible.                   | <b>It is written by Dr. Lina Perez, an ecologist who studies native plants for the department, and it lists research reports and an update date.</b>                                                                                 |
| 2 | Which source is least credible for choosing native flowers for Maple Grove, and why?                     | <b>Max's personal blog is least credible because Max does not explain his plant knowledge, gives no research links, and lists flowers from several states.</b>                                                                       |
| 3 | Which source is most directly relevant to the school's nearby garden? Use one passage detail to explain. | <b>The county university extension fact sheet is most directly relevant because the extension office serves the county and gives local gardening information.</b>                                                                    |
| 4 | How does what you know about Dr. Lina Perez and Max help you judge their sources differently?            | <b>Dr. Perez is an ecologist who studies native plants for the State Department of Natural Resources, so her source is more credible. Max only says he likes taking flower photos and does not show plant expertise or research.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

I would use a webpage from the National Weather Service about thunderstorms. It is credible because weather experts create it, and it is relevant because our class is learning how to stay safe during thunderstorms.

Accept answers that use passage evidence about an author's expertise, an organization's role, research, or local connection. For Part 3, accept a reasonable source and a clear explanation of both credibility and relevance in exactly two sentences.