

Context Detectives

Find the details that matter most.

GRADE 5 • 5.P.ST.1.a

5.P.ST.1.a "Use prior knowledge, formal or informal research, and discussions with others to identify the key components of context that are most relevant. (I/C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Use your role job during the round.

2 Speak one at a time.

3 Build on ideas, do not just repeat them.

4 Name what you know and what you need to find out.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and read the question together.
2. Each player takes one Role card. Set aside any extra Role cards.
3. Give each player four random Move cards. Print copies of the Move cards so everyone gets four.
4. On your turn, use one card's starter in a real idea about the topic, then play that card in the middle.
5. Keep talking until every dealt card is in the middle. Then complete the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used something I already know.

☐ I named a context detail that matters.

☐ I suggested a person or source that could help.

☐ I explained why one detail was important.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
School Garden Plan What information about your school and community would matter most before planning a small school garden?	New Student Guide What information would matter most before making a guide for a new student at your school?	Playground Improvement What information would matter most before suggesting one improvement for your playground?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Context Scout Watch for details about people, place, time, purpose, or the situation that matter.	Source Seeker Notice when the group uses experience, asks someone, or suggests a source for information.	Focus Finder Ask the group to decide which details are most important to the question.	Bridge Builder Link ideas together and make sure each player gets a chance to speak.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD CONTEXT CLUE “One important part of the context is ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD CONTEXT CLUE “A detail about ____ could matter because ____.”	MOVE CARD QUESTION CHECK “What do we need to know about ____?”	MOVE CARD QUESTION CHECK “Before we decide, how does ____ affect the situation?”
MOVE CARD FIND SOURCE “We could ask ____ or look at ____ to learn ____.”	MOVE CARD FIND SOURCE “A good way to find out about ____ is ____.”	MOVE CARD PICK PRIORITY “The most important detail to find out is ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD PICK PRIORITY “I think ____ matters more than ____ because ____.”

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

For each round, give every player four cards from copied Move card sets, and require students to use the printed starter in a meaningful statement before playing a card. Treat a card as played only when the statement identifies, investigates, or prioritizes relevant context. If participation is uneven, have the Bridge Builder call on a player who has not spoken before the next student takes another turn.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	One important part of the context is how much sun the garden spot gets because plants need light.
Noah	What do we need to know about who will water the garden during school breaks?
Lina	From what I have seen or done, the field near the playground stays sunny in the afternoon.
Owen	We could ask the custodian or look at a maintenance map to learn where water is available.
Maya	The most important detail to find out is who can care for the garden because plants need regular watering.

LISTEN FOR

- Names a relevant detail about people, place, time, purpose, or situation
- Uses prior experience as one source of information
- Suggests a person or source to learn missing information
- Explains why one context detail matters more than another

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.