

Source Trail

Read how one researcher gathers and combines trustworthy information.

5.T.RA.1.b "Conduct research by locating, gathering, curating, and integrating information from multiple credible sources, including print, digital, and personal communication, about a self-selected topic. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sources Maya used. Circle one detail that helped her judge or use each source, then number the sources 1, 2, and 3.

Maya Researches Pollinators

- ① Maya wanted to learn how city gardens help pollinators. She began with a book from the public library about native plants. The book listed its author, publisher, and publication date, so Maya could check who created it and when. She wrote the title and page numbers on note cards. She copied only short facts, then used her own words to explain each idea.
- ② Next, Maya used a university website to find a chart about bees and flowers. She looked for the writer's name, the date, and links to studies before trusting the chart. A website from a university can still contain old information, so she checked the date. Maya saved the web address and made a note that the chart showed which flowers bees visited.
- ③ Finally, Maya interviewed Mr. Ortiz, a gardener at a neighborhood garden. She asked how he knew which plants attracted bees. He described what he had observed, but Maya treated his answer as one person's experience. Her notes grouped facts by topic: plant choices, bee visits, and garden care. In her report, she combined the book, website, and interview, and named each source near the information it supported.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which source was Maya's print source? What two pieces of information did she record from it?

2 What three things did Maya look for before trusting the university website's chart?

3 Why did Maya treat Mr. Ortiz's answer as one person's experience?

4 How did Maya organize and integrate information from her three sources?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a topic you want to research. Write three or four sentences that name one print source, one digital source, and one person you could ask, explain how you would check or use each source, and tell how you would organize information from them.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three sources Maya used. Circle one detail that helped her judge or use each source, then number the sources 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source was Maya's print source? What two pieces of information did she record from it?	Her print source was the library book. She recorded the title and page numbers.
2	What three things did Maya look for before trusting the university website's chart?	She looked for the writer's name, the date, and links to studies.
3	Why did Maya treat Mr. Ortiz's answer as one person's experience?	His answer came from what he had personally observed, so it was one person's experience.
4	How did Maya organize and integrate information from her three sources?	She grouped notes by topic, then combined information from the book, website, and interview in her report and named each source near the information it supported.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My topic is how to make a backyard bird feeder safe. I will use a library book about local birds, a state wildlife agency webpage, and an interview with a birdwatcher. I will check the book's author and date, the webpage's date and agency, and ask the birdwatcher how they learned each tip. I will sort notes into food, feeder placement, and cleaning, then use facts from more than one source in my report.

Accept equivalent answers that identify the stated sources and details from the passage. For the open task, accept any appropriate topic with all three source types, a reasonable credibility or use check, and a clear plan for organizing information.