Source Sleuth Notes

Check sources before using evidence in a report.

5.T.RA.2 "Curating Sources & Evidence: Integrate evidence from print and digital sources, assessing credibility and relevance and avoiding plagiarism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two facts Lena chooses as evidence. Circle words that show why a source is credible or not credible, and number 1 and 2 beside the two sources she uses.

Finding Monarch Evidence

1. For a report about helping monarch butterflies, Lena begins with a print book from the library, Monarchs on the Move. Its author, Dr. Ana Ruiz, is an entomologist, a scientist who studies insects. The book explains that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed plants. Because the author has training and the book lists sources, Lena considers it credible. The fact directly supports her report topic, so it is relevant.

2. Next, Lena finds a webpage from the U.S. National Park Service, a government agency. It says that adult monarchs drink nectar from flowers. The page names its agency and includes an update date, so Lena can check who published it and how current it is. This digital source is credible and relevant because it gives information about monarch food.

3. On a social media post, Lena reads, "Plant any bright flower and monarchs will come." The post gives no author, date, or sources, so she does not use it as evidence. Instead, Lena combines the book's milkweed fact with the Park Service's nectar fact. In her own words, she writes that monarchs need milkweed as caterpillars and flower nectar as adults, then lists both sources.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details make Lena's print book a credible source?

2. Why is the National Park Service webpage relevant to Lena's report?

3. Why does Lena decide not to use the social media post as evidence?

4. What does Lena do to avoid plagiarism when she uses information from the book and webpage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a research topic. Write two sentences that name one credible print source and one credible digital source, explain why they fit your topic, and combine one fact from each source in your own words while naming both sources.

ANSWER KEY

Source Sleuth Notes

GRADE 5 · 5.T.RA.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two facts Lena chooses as evidence. Circle words that show why a source is credible or not credible, and number 1 and 2 beside the two sources she uses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details make Lena's print book a credible source?	**The author is an entomologist, and the book lists sources.**
2	Why is the National Park Service webpage relevant to Lena's report?	**It gives information about what adult monarchs eat, which supports her report about helping monarch butterflies.**
3	Why does Lena decide not to use the social media post as evidence?	**It gives no author, date, or sources, so its information cannot be checked.**
4	What does Lena do to avoid plagiarism when she uses information from the book and webpage?	**She combines the facts in her own words and lists both sources.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would use the print book The Beaver: Its Life and Impact by zoologist Dietland Müller-Schwarze and a U.S. Forest Service beaver webpage, because an expert wrote the book, the agency publishes the webpage, and both fit my beaver topic. In my own words, I would write: Beavers cut wood with their teeth, and their dams can form wetlands, then cite the book and the webpage.

Accept equivalent explanations of credibility, relevance, and plagiarism prevention that match the passage. For Part 3, accept different topics and sources when the student evaluates both sources and paraphrases combined evidence rather than copying it.