Source Sleuth Notes

Evaluate sources, choose useful evidence, and give credit.

6.T.RA.2 "Curating Sources & Evidence: Utilize multiple print and digital texts to address a specific topic or question, assessing source credibility and relevance and integrating evidence properly to avoid plagiarism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two sources Jordan uses, circle two details that show a source is trustworthy or relevant, and number the steps he takes to give credit for evidence.

Plants for Pollinators

1. For a science fair project, Jordan asks, "Which plants could help pollinators near our school?" He starts with a print field guide, Native Plants of the Northeast by Donald J. Leopold, from the public library. The guide explains that native plants evolved with local insects and can provide nectar, pollen, or leaves for different life stages. Jordan also searches a university extension website. His question keeps him focused. A colorful gardening ad about imported flowers may be interesting, but it does not directly answer which local plants support pollinators.

2. Before using the website, Jordan checks who made it, when it was updated, and why it was published. The page comes from a state university extension program, and it names its authors and links to research. These details make it more trustworthy than an anonymous post. Jordan compares the field guide and website. Both say that native plant choices can help insects, but he notices that the website describes plants for his state. That local detail makes the website especially relevant to his school project.

3. Jordan does not copy a sentence from either source into his report. Instead, he writes in his own words that local native plants can offer food or places for insect larvae to feed. Then he gives credit: Leopold explains that native plants support insects in several life stages, and the university extension page lists plants suited to the state. When Jordan uses exact words, he puts them in quotation marks and names the source. His notes record each source title, author, date, and link or page number.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What print source and what digital source does Jordan use for his project?

2. What two details make the university extension website more trustworthy than an anonymous post?

3. Why is the university extension website especially relevant to Jordan's question?

4. What does Jordan do to avoid plagiarism when he uses information from a source?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school topic you want to improve. Name one print source and one digital source you would use, and explain one credibility or relevance check for each. Then write one paraphrased evidence sentence with a source citation.

ANSWER KEY

Source Sleuth Notes

GRADE 6 · 6.T.RA.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two sources Jordan uses, circle two details that show a source is trustworthy or relevant, and number the steps he takes to give credit for evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What print source and what digital source does Jordan use for his project?	**He uses the print field guide Native Plants of the Northeast by Donald J. Leopold and a university extension website.**
2	What two details make the university extension website more trustworthy than an anonymous post?	**It comes from a state university extension program, names its authors, and links to research. Any two details are acceptable.**
3	Why is the university extension website especially relevant to Jordan's question?	**It describes plants for his state, so its information fits his school's local area.**
4	What does Jordan do to avoid plagiarism when he uses information from a source?	**He writes the idea in his own words and gives credit to the source. For exact words, he uses quotation marks and names the source.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is, How can our cafeteria waste less food? I would use the print book The Complete Compost Gardening Guide by Barbara Pleasant and Deborah L. Martin because it is published by Storey Publishing and explains how food scraps can become compost. I would also use the EPA's Wasted Food Scale webpage because a government agency created it and its advice fits food waste. The EPA places preventing wasted food first, so our cafeteria could measure leftovers before changing orders (U.S. EPA, "Wasted Food Scale").

Accept equivalent explanations supported by the passage for Parts 1 and 2. For the open task, accept a reasonable school topic, one print and one digital source, a valid credibility or relevance check for each, and an original paraphrase that credits its source.