Trail Report Edit

Edit a science field report for clear written-language conventions.

7.P.EICC.4.h "Edit the text, ensuring it adheres to the conventions of written language. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the field report. Underline words that need a spelling or apostrophe fix, and circle punctuation marks that need to change so the report follows written-language conventions.

A Tiny Trail Builder

1 Last spring, our science club watched ants build a trail beside the school garden. At first, the ants moved in many directions, but soon most of them followed the same narrow path. They were carrying crumbs from a dropped cracker, which became there food source for the afternoon. One student asked, “How do they know where to go”? Our teacher explained that many ants leave chemical signals, called pheromones, as they walk. The stronger trail can guide other ants toward food.

2 Ants do not use pheromones only to find snacks. Some species use them to lead nestmates to water, new nesting sites, or safer routes. However, a trail is not a permanent map, it fades when the chemicals evaporate or when rain washes them away. The club recorded what happened after the sprinkler turned on. Within minutes, the ants path became less direct, and several ants explored the area again. “They are checking for a new route,” said Mateo, “because the old signal is gone.”

3 To test the trails, the students placed equal cracker pieces at two spots, then observed from a distance. They did not touch the ants or block the paths, because even a small change could affect the results. After twenty minutes, the group counted more ants at the closer cracker. Its important to report that result carefully, the test showed what happened on one sunny day, not what every ant colony will do. Next time, the club plans to repeat the test and compare there observations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, rewrite the sentence that uses the wrong form of their, there, or they're.

2. In paragraph 1, rewrite the student's question with quotation marks and end punctuation placed correctly.

3. In paragraph 2, revise the sentence beginning "However, a trail..." to fix the comma splice.

4. In paragraph 3, rewrite the final sentence with the correct word showing ownership.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence field-note paragraph about observing an insect. Include a possessive noun, a contraction, and one sentence joined with a coordinating conjunction, then reread and edit for capitals, spelling, and end punctuation.

ANSWER KEY

Trail Report Edit

GRADE 7 · 7.P.EICC.4.h

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the field report. Underline words that need a spelling or apostrophe fix, and circle punctuation marks that need to change so the report follows written-language conventions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, rewrite the sentence that uses the wrong form of their, there, or they're.	**They were carrying crumbs from a dropped cracker, which became their food source for the afternoon.**
2	In paragraph 1, rewrite the student's question with quotation marks and end punctuation placed correctly.	**One student asked, "How do they know where to go?"**
3	In paragraph 2, revise the sentence beginning "However, a trail..." to fix the comma splice.	**However, a trail is not a permanent map. It fades when the chemicals evaporate or when rain washes them away.**
4	In paragraph 3, rewrite the final sentence with the correct word showing ownership.	**Next time, the club plans to repeat the test and compare their observations.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We watched a ladybug crawl across a bean leaf. The insect's red wings were closed, and its black spots were easy to see. It didn't fly away until a shadow crossed the garden bed.

Accept editing marks that identify these needed changes: there to their, move the question mark inside the quotation marks, repair both comma splices, ants to ants', Its to It's, and there to their. For either comma splice, accept a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus a suitable coordinating conjunction when the revision is correct.