Evidence Pathways

Trace sources from search to synthesis.

7.T.RA.1.b "Conduct research by locating, gathering, curating, and integrating information from credible sources (including print, digital, and personal communication) about texts and related topics. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each source Maya uses, underline details that show why a source is credible or limited, and put a star beside each action that helps her save or combine information.

Researching City Falcons

1. To learn why peregrine falcons returned to many North American cities, Maya begins with a focused question: How did protection efforts affect the birds? She searches the library catalog for a book published by a university press and finds a chapter about pesticide DDT. The chapter names its scientist authors, gives publication dates, and lists evidence. Maya records the title, authors, page numbers, and a brief note on a source card. Complete notes will help her find the information again.

2. Next, Maya opens a digital article from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It explains that DDT caused thin eggshells and that the United States banned most uses of DDT in 1972. Maya checks the article's date and follows its links to reports and data. Then she emails a wildlife biologist at a nearby nature center. The biologist describes seeing falcons nest on downtown buildings, but Maya treats this personal communication as one expert observation, not proof of every city's experience. She saves the email with its date.

3. Before writing, Maya curates her research. She keeps sources that identify an author or organization, provide evidence, and connect to her question. She leaves out a social media post that makes an exciting claim but gives no author, date, or links. In her report, Maya combines information instead of copying one source. She explains that the book and government article connect DDT to falcon decline, then uses the biologist's email as a local example of nesting today. Her source list lets readers check where each idea came from.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source is a print source, and which source is a digital source? Identify each one.

2. What two actions does Maya take to check the digital article before using its information?

3. Which source does Maya leave out, and what three pieces of information does it lack?

4. How does Maya combine the book, the government article, and the biologist's email in her report?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a text or related topic you are studying. Write a focused research question, make two source notes, one from a credible print or digital source and one from an informed personal communication, then write a 3-sentence finding that combines the information; include the author or organization, title or description, date, and contribution of each source.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Pathways

GRADE 7 · 7.T.RA.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each source Maya uses, underline details that show why a source is credible or limited, and put a star beside each action that helps her save or combine information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is a print source, and which source is a digital source? Identify each one.	**The print source is the university-press book chapter about DDT. The digital source is the article from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**
2	What two actions does Maya take to check the digital article before using its information?	**She checks the article's date and follows its links to reports and data.**
3	Which source does Maya leave out, and what three pieces of information does it lack?	**She leaves out a social media post because it has no author, date, or links.**
4	How does Maya combine the book, the government article, and the biologist's email in her report?	**She uses the book and government article to connect DDT to falcon decline, then uses the biologist's email as a local example of falcons nesting today.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How did Katherine Johnson support NASA's early crewed flights? Digital source note: NASA, "Katherine Johnson Biography," accessed August 17, 2026; it reports that Johnson calculated the trajectory for Alan Shepard's 1961 flight and verified computer calculations for John Glenn's 1962 orbital flight. Personal communication note: Mr. Ruiz, science teacher, interview, August 17, 2026; he described how a school display uses Johnson's work to teach students about flight paths. Finding: NASA's biography shows that Johnson's calculations supported two important early crewed missions. Mr. Ruiz's description shows how her work is used in a local science lesson. The interview illustrates a present-day connection, while NASA provides evidence for the historical facts.

Accept equivalent descriptions of source types, credibility checks, and source limitations when they are supported by the passage. For the open task, look for a focused question, complete source information, an appropriate limit on the personal communication, and a finding that combines rather than merely copies sources.