# Pond Question Hunt

Turn close observations into specific research questions.

**3.W.6.a** "Identify a specific topic or question of interest (e.g., where did Benjamin Harrison grow up?)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one detail about water striders, one about frog eggs, and one about dragonflies that could lead to a research question. Number the details 1, 2, and 3.

### Mina's Pond Notes

1. On a warm morning, Mina sat beside a small pond at the park. Tiny water striders moved across the surface. Their long legs touched the water, but their bodies stayed dry. Mina saw one dart toward a bug that had fallen in. She wrote down what she saw. Then she wondered what else she could learn about these fast little insects.

2. Near the muddy edge, Mina noticed clear clumps filled with dark dots. A park sign called them frog eggs. Some clumps were tucked between wet reeds. Mina watched an adult frog jump from a rock into the pond, but she did not see any frogs caring for the eggs. She added the egg clumps and reeds to her notes.

3. Above the pond, a blue dragonfly flew back and forth. It stopped on a stem for a moment, then lifted off again. In the shallow water below, Mina spotted a small creature with six legs and a wide head. A park guide told her it was a young dragonfly. Mina drew both dragonflies in her notebook. She wrote down where she saw each one.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What specific question could Mina research about how the water striders move?

2. What specific question could Mina research about the frog eggs near the reeds?

3. Mina saw a young dragonfly and an adult dragonfly. What specific question could she research about them?

4. Which is a more specific research topic, "pond animals" or "how frogs jump"? What did Mina see that makes it fit?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a place you have visited other than this pond. Write one sentence about something you noticed there, then write one specific question about it that you would like to research.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Pond Question Hunt

**GRADE 3 · 3.W.6.a**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about water striders, one about frog eggs, and one about dragonflies that could lead to a research question. Number the details 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What specific question could Mina research about how the water striders move? | **How do water striders stay on top of the water?** |
| 2 | What specific question could Mina research about the frog eggs near the reeds? | **Why are some frog eggs tucked between reeds?** |
| 3 | Mina saw a young dragonfly and an adult dragonfly. What specific question could she research about them? | **How does a young dragonfly become an adult?** |
| 4 | Which is a more specific research topic, “pond animals” or “how frogs jump”? What did Mina see that makes it fit? | **“How frogs jump” is more specific. Mina saw a frog jump from a rock into the pond.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the beach, I noticed tiny holes in the wet sand. What animals make those holes?

For questions 1 through 3, accept other specific research questions tied to the named details, including questions the passage does not answer. For Your Turn, look for an observation and a related, focused question.