Bat Source Detectives

Decide which sources can answer a research question.

3.W.6.c "Recognize that some sources may be more reliable than others."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail that makes a source useful for learning about bats at Pine Park this October. Circle one detail that makes a source less useful for that question.

Bats at Pine Park

1. Maya wanted to know if bats still visited Pine Park in October. Her cousin Leo said, "I saw bats there one summer night two years ago." Leo remembered flying shapes near the pond, but he did not write down the date. Maya knew his story might help her ask a question, but it could not show what happened at the park this October.

2. At the park office, Maya read a log kept by a ranger. The ranger counted bats near the pond on three October nights this year. Each entry gave a date, a place, and the number seen. The log showed bats on two of those nights. It did not tell Maya how many bats lived in the park, since one bat could be seen more than once.

3. Maya also found a library book about what bats eat. It named the scientists who studied bats and listed the books they used. A shop page said, "Our bat lantern brings bats to any yard!" The page gave no test or observer and asked readers to buy a lantern. Maya needed to decide which source could help with each question about bats.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source is more useful for finding out if bats visited Pine Park this October, Leo's story or the ranger's log? Why?

2. Can the ranger's log tell Maya how many bats live in the park? Explain why or why not.

3. Which source would you check first to learn what bats eat, the library book or Leo's story? Why?

4. Why should Maya be careful about trusting the shop page's claim about its bat lantern?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

You want to find out whether a plant will grow well in your school's shady garden. Name two sources you could check. In three sentences, say which source you would trust more and why.

ANSWER KEY

Bat Source Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.W.6.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that makes a source useful for learning about bats at Pine Park this October. Circle one detail that makes a source less useful for that question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is more useful for finding out if bats visited Pine Park this October, Leo's story or the ranger's log? Why?	**The ranger's log is more useful because it records bats seen at Pine Park on dated nights this October. Leo's sighting was two years ago.**
2	Can the ranger's log tell Maya how many bats live in the park? Explain why or why not.	**No. The log counts bats seen on three nights, and the same bat could have been counted more than once.**
3	Which source would you check first to learn what bats eat, the library book or Leo's story? Why?	**The library book. It is about what bats eat and names the scientists and books behind its information. Leo's story is about seeing bats.**
4	Why should Maya be careful about trusting the shop page's claim about its bat lantern?	**The page gives no test or observer to support its claim, and the shop wants readers to buy the lantern.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I could ask a garden worker who grows plants in shady spots at our school. I could also read an ad that says its flowers grow anywhere. I would trust the garden worker more because they have seen what grows in our garden.

For the marking job, accept a detail about the ranger's dated October entries for the underline and a detail such as the age of Leo's sighting for the circle. For Your Turn, accept other pairs of sources when the student gives a clear reason one is more useful or trustworthy for the school garden question.