Pigeon Question Hunt

Turn interesting facts into focused research questions.

4.W.5.a "Identify a specific question to address (e.g., What is the history of the Indy 500?)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the research question Nia chooses. Circle four facts that could each lead to a different research question.

Nia Notices Pigeons

1. On her way to school, Nia watches pigeons peck at a patch of grass. They eat seeds and grains, and in cities they may also eat food scraps. Nia wants to learn about pigeons, but that topic has many parts. She decides to look for small facts that could lead to research questions. She jots down what the birds are eating.

2. Later, Nia notices pigeons on the ledge of a tall building. City pigeons often build nests on ledges and other sheltered places. They make simple nests with twigs. A pair of pigeons usually lays two eggs, and both parents help keep the eggs warm. These details give Nia more parts of pigeon life to ask about, including nests and eggs.

3. Pigeons can also find their way back to a familiar home after traveling a long distance. They use several clues, including the sun's position and Earth's magnetic field. Nia could ask about that skill, but she cannot study every pigeon fact at once. She chooses one question to guide her research: How do pigeons find their way home? That question helps her decide which facts to collect.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a specific research question that the passage could answer about pigeon food.

2. Write a specific research question that the passage could answer about where city pigeons build nests.

3. What specific question about nest materials could you answer using the passage?

4. A classmate asks, "Tell me all about baby pigeons." Write a narrower question about what the parents do before the eggs hatch.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic that is not about pigeons. Write your topic, one specific research question about it, and one sentence telling where you could look for an answer.

ANSWER KEY

Pigeon Question Hunt

GRADE 4 · 4.W.5.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the research question Nia chooses. Circle four facts that could each lead to a different research question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a specific research question that the passage could answer about pigeon food.	**What do city pigeons eat?**
2	Write a specific research question that the passage could answer about where city pigeons build nests.	**Where do city pigeons build their nests?**
3	What specific question about nest materials could you answer using the passage?	**What do city pigeons use to make their nests?**
4	A classmate asks, "Tell me all about baby pigeons." Write a narrower question about what the parents do before the eggs hatch.	**How do both pigeon parents help keep their eggs warm?**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Topic: My town's library. Question: How does my town's library choose books for its children's section? I could ask a librarian what the library considers when buying books.

For Part 2, accept other specific questions that can be answered by the named passage details. For Part 3, accept a focused question about a different topic and a reasonable place to seek an answer.