# Pond Source Check

Look for evidence before using a source.

**4.W.5.c** "Determine the reliability of the sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle the name of each source. Underline two details about each source that help you decide whether to trust it.

### Who Knows About Frog Calls?

1. Leah is researching why frogs call at Maple Pond in spring. First, she finds a page from the town wildlife office, updated in April 2026. It says staff listened at Maple Pond on three evenings and heard several kinds of frog calls. The page names the staff members and tells when they visited. It also says their notes are available at the town library.

2. Next, Leah reads an article by Dr. Mina Chen, a frog scientist at a university. The article says many male frogs call to attract mates and that different kinds of frogs have different calls. It was published in 2024 and lists the studies the scientist used. The article covers frogs in many places, but it does not report visits to Maple Pond.

3. Finally, Leah watches a short video posted by an account called Pond Secrets. Its speaker claims that frogs call only when rain will arrive the next day. The video gives no speaker name, posting date, weather records, or studies to support this claim. The speaker says, "Trust me, I have heard frogs for years." Leah needs to choose sources for her report.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is the town wildlife office page a useful source for a report about Maple Pond?

2. What two details help you judge whether Dr. Chen's article is trustworthy?

3. Name two things missing from the Pond Secrets video that would help you check its claim.

4. Would you use Dr. Chen's article or the Pond Secrets video to explain why frogs call? Give a reason based on the passage.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose you want to check the video's claim about rain. Write three sentences explaining what information you would gather and how you would decide whether to trust it.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Pond Source Check

**GRADE 4 · 4.W.5.c**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the name of each source. Underline two details about each source that help you decide whether to trust it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why is the town wildlife office page a useful source for a report about Maple Pond? | **Its staff visited Maple Pond, recorded when they listened, and made their notes available.** |
| 2 | What two details help you judge whether Dr. Chen's article is trustworthy? | **Dr. Chen is a frog scientist at a university, and the article lists the studies she used.** |
| 3 | Name two things missing from the Pond Secrets video that would help you check its claim. | **Accept any two: the speaker's name, the posting date, weather records, or supporting studies.** |
| 4 | Would you use Dr. Chen's article or the Pond Secrets video to explain why frogs call? Give a reason based on the passage. | **Use Dr. Chen's article because she studies frogs and lists supporting studies. The video offers only an unnamed speaker's personal story.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would record frog calls at Maple Pond for several weeks. I would compare my notes with dated weather records from a local weather office to see whether rain followed the calls. I would check who collected the weather records and how they measured the rain.

Accept other passage-based reasons for trusting or questioning a source. For Your Turn, look for a way to check the rain claim and a specific way to judge the information's reliability.