# Lunch Waste Clues

Connect a report with cafeteria data

**6.RC.9** "Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, verbally) to demonstrate a coherent understanding of a topic or issue."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the two cafeteria changes and number them 1 and 2. Put those numbers beside the matching apple and milk rows in the table, then circle the Monday and Friday counts in those rows.

### What Changed at Lunch?

1 At Cedar Middle School, sixth graders noticed that untouched food was landing in the cafeteria trash. They counted three kinds of items after lunch on Monday and again on Friday. Each day, the cafeteria served 100 lunches. Between the counts, students asked the lunch staff to try two small changes. The table shows what students found in the trash.

2 First, workers moved whole apples from the start of the lunch line to the end, so students could decide whether they wanted one after choosing a meal. Next, staff placed a share table beside the exit. Students could leave unopened milk cartons and wrapped rolls there for others to take. Staff checked which items could be shared safely.

**UNTOUCHED ITEMS FOUND IN CAFETERIA TRASH**

| Item | Monday | Friday |
|---|---|---|
| Whole apples | 18 | 7 |
| Unopened milk cartons | 12 | 5 |
| Wrapped rolls | 10 | 4 |

3 On Friday, fewer whole apples, milk cartons, and wrapped rolls appeared in the trash than on Monday. The numbers support the idea that the changes may have helped, but the counts cannot prove why the trash decreased. Students did not record what people took from the share table, and other habits might have changed. They plan to count again next week.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How might moving the apples have affected the trash count? Use both the passage and the table.

2. Which item allowed on the share table had the larger drop in the trash count? Use numbers from the table and a detail from the passage.

3. What do the passage and table together suggest about the two changes? Give one detail from each.

4. A student says the share table eliminated milk waste. What do the table and passage show about this claim?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short announcement for the student council. Use two number comparisons from the table to explain why the changes are worth checking again, and propose one new thing students should count next week.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Lunch Waste Clues

**GRADE 6 · 6.RC.9**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two cafeteria changes and number them 1 and 2. Put those numbers beside the matching apple and milk rows in the table, then circle the Monday and Friday counts in those rows. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How might moving the apples have affected the trash count? Use both the passage and the table. | **Moving apples to the end of the line let students decide whether they wanted one after choosing a meal. Whole apples in the trash fell from 18 on Monday to 7 on Friday.** |
| 2 | Which item allowed on the share table had the larger drop in the trash count? Use numbers from the table and a detail from the passage. | **Unopened milk cartons had the larger drop, from 12 to 5, or 7 cartons. Wrapped rolls dropped from 10 to 4, or 6 rolls. Both could be left on the share table.** |
| 3 | What do the passage and table together suggest about the two changes? Give one detail from each. | **The changes may have helped reduce untouched food in the trash. The passage describes moving apples and adding a share table, and the table shows lower Friday counts for all three items.** |
| 4 | A student says the share table eliminated milk waste. What do the table and passage show about this claim? | **The table shows five unopened milk cartons still in the trash on Friday. The passage also says students did not record what people took from the share table, so they cannot tell how much milk was used.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our lunch changes are worth checking again because whole apples in the trash fell from 18 to 7, and milk cartons fell from 12 to 5. Next week, let's count how many items people take from the share table. That count could help us learn whether shared food is being used instead of thrown away.

Accept reasonable links between the reported changes and the counts, but students should not claim the changes caused the decreases. In Part 3, the proposed count should add information that the Monday and Friday trash counts do not provide.