Fox Fact Check

Weigh the evidence behind a research claim

6.W.5.c "Assess the credibility of each source."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one clue about the credibility of each of the four sources. Then circle one clue that gives you a reason to be cautious about a source.

What Do Neighborhood Foxes Eat?

1. Your class is researching whether foxes in the neighborhood mostly eat pets. Maya finds a 2024 report on the city wildlife office website. The report names two wildlife biologists and explains how they studied fox droppings collected in local parks over six months. Its chart lists insects, fruit, and small rodents, but no pets in the samples. The researchers note that park samples cannot reveal every meal foxes eat across the whole city. Maya saves the report and keeps looking for other evidence.

2. Next, Maya sees a video titled "Foxes Are Taking Our Pets!" It shows a fox carrying something furry at night, but the object is too blurry to identify. The account gives no filmer's name, date, or location. A caption claims foxes eat pets daily, without linking to records or interviews. Maya also reads an interview with a veterinarian who has treated injured pets for twelve years. She says she has not examined a pet injured by a fox, but she works outside the city.

3. Finally, Maya visits a store website that sells fox repellent. Its article says foxes are a major danger to pets and urges readers to buy a spray. The article names no writer and offers no research behind its claim. It includes a photo of a fox near a fence, but the photo does not show what the fox ate. Maya has four sources with different kinds of clues. Before making a claim in her report, she needs to decide which sources deserve trust for this particular question.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How credible is the city report for Maya's question? Give one reason to trust it and one limit.

2. Should Maya trust the video's claim that foxes eat pets daily? Use two clues from the passage.

3. How does the veterinarian's experience help Maya, and why might her interview not settle the question?

4. What makes the store article a weak source for Maya's report? Give two reasons.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you find a fifth source: a dated survey of 30 neighborhood pet owners by a student club. None reported a fox attack. In three or four sentences, judge its usefulness and credibility for Maya's question. Include one strength, one limit, and one way to check its finding.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.W.5.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one clue about the credibility of each of the four sources. Then circle one clue that gives you a reason to be cautious about a source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How credible is the city report for Maya's question? Give one reason to trust it and one limit.	**It is fairly credible because named biologists explain how they collected and studied samples. Its limit is that droppings from local parks cannot show every meal foxes eat across the city.**
2	Should Maya trust the video's claim that foxes eat pets daily? Use two clues from the passage.	**No. The object in the video cannot be identified, and the account gives no filmer's name, date, or location.**
3	How does the veterinarian's experience help Maya, and why might her interview not settle the question?	**Her twelve years treating injured pets give her relevant experience. She works outside the city, so her experience may not reflect Maya's neighborhood.**
4	What makes the store article a weak source for Maya's report? Give two reasons.	**The store benefits from selling fox repellent, and its article gives neither a named writer nor research to support its claim.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The survey is useful because it asks local pet owners about attacks and gives a sample size. Its finding does not show what all foxes eat, since only 30 owners were asked and the survey relies on their reports. I would ask how the club chose those owners. I would compare its finding with local animal control records.

Accept other passage-based judgments that distinguish a source's relevant evidence from its limits. For the open task, accept reasonable ways to check the survey, such as asking about its questions or comparing it with local records.