# Trace the Source

Use source ideas without hiding where they came from

**6.W.5.e** "Avoid plagiarism and provide basic bibliographic information for sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the sentence taken word for word from Reed's article, circle both authors' names, and number the four details on Park's source card that belong in a bibliography.

### A Garden for Rain

1. When rain hits a school courtyard, it often races across pavement and gathers near the doors. A sixth-grade class decides to research a planted space that could help. For this practice project, their teacher makes two pretend source cards. The first card lists Ada Reed, "Where Rain Goes," Creekside Science Review, 2025. The second lists Luis Park, "Plants for Wet Places," Garden Club Journal, 2024. These titles, authors, publications, and years give the class the basic information needed to name each source.

2. In the pretend article, Reed describes a rain garden as a planted hollow that catches runoff from hard surfaces. One sentence reads, "A rain garden is a shallow dip filled with soil and plants." Water collects there for a short time, then sinks into the ground instead of rushing straight to a storm drain. Park's pretend article focuses on plants. It says that plants in a rain garden must survive both wet spells and dry days. Their roots also make paths that help water enter the soil.

3. When the class writes its report, copying a source sentence without quotation marks or credit would make someone else's words look like their own. Changing just one or two words does not solve the problem. A writer can explain an idea in fresh language and still name the source, or keep the exact words inside quotation marks and name the source. For example, one report says that Park recommends plants able to handle changing moisture. This sentence uses new wording and names Park. A bibliography lists details that help a reader find the article.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A student copies Reed's sentence about a shallow dip into a report without quotation marks or credit. What two changes would let the student use those exact words?

2. A student changes "wet spells and dry days" to "rainy times and dry times" in a report. Does the student still need to credit Park? Explain.

3. Write one sentence about how roots help water enter the soil. Use your own words and credit the source.

4. Write a basic bibliography entry for Park's article using all four details on his source card.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two original sentences explaining how a rain garden changes what happens to water from pavement, using ideas from Reed's pretend article. Then write a basic bibliography entry for Reed's article.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Trace the Source

**GRADE 6 · 6.W.5.e**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence taken word for word from Reed's article, circle both authors' names, and number the four details on Park's source card that belong in a bibliography. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | A student copies Reed's sentence about a shallow dip into a report without quotation marks or credit. What two changes would let the student use those exact words? | **Put the sentence in quotation marks and name Ada Reed as the source.** |
| 2 | A student changes "wet spells and dry days" to "rainy times and dry times" in a report. Does the student still need to credit Park? Explain. | **Yes. Changing a few words does not make Park's idea the student's own.** |
| 3 | Write one sentence about how roots help water enter the soil. Use your own words and credit the source. | **According to Luis Park, plant roots leave openings that let water move into the soil.** |
| 4 | Write a basic bibliography entry for Park's article using all four details on his source card. | **Park, Luis. "Plants for Wet Places." Garden Club Journal, 2024.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A rain garden catches water that runs off pavement. The water can then soak into the ground instead of going straight to a storm drain.
Reed, Ada. "Where Rain Goes." Creekside Science Review, 2025.

Accept other accurate paraphrases that name the correct author. Bibliography entries may use a different order or punctuation if they include the author, title, publication, and year.