Stay on Topic

Choose facts for a dog-care paragraph.

C.3.2 "Compose informative and/or explanatory texts, using writing and digital resources, to examine a topic and provide information. With guidance and support from adults..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FITS THE TOPIC

A sentence fits when it helps explain the paragraph's exact topic.

Topic: Painting a fence. Lay down old newspaper to catch paint drops.

STRAYS FROM THE TOPIC

A sentence strays when it does not help explain the paragraph's exact topic, even if it mentions the same animal or thing.

Topic: Painting a fence. Penguins huddle to stay warm.

1 SORT

8 items

The paragraph topic is "How to care for a pet dog"; circle FITS or STRAYS for each sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain why each belongs in its category.

1. Give your dog clean drinking water each day. FITS STRAYS

2. Dogs can hear sounds that people cannot hear. FITS STRAYS

3. A veterinarian can give your dog checkups. FITS STRAYS

4. Walk your dog on a leash for exercise. FITS STRAYS

5. Some dogs have curly tails. FITS STRAYS

6. Brush your dog's fur to keep it clean. FITS STRAYS

7. Puppies are born without teeth. FITS STRAYS

8. A dog's nose can smell many things. FITS STRAYS

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence that FITS the dog-care paragraph and one that STRAYS; label each sentence.

FITS _____

STRAYS _____

CHALLENGE

Write four sentences about caring for a pet dog: introduce the topic, give two care facts using First and Also, and end with a conclusion.

ANSWER KEY

Stay on Topic

GRADE 3 · C.3.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Give your dog clean drinking water each day.	**FITS**	Giving water is a way to care for a dog.
2	Dogs can hear sounds that people cannot hear.	**STRAYS**	This fact is about dogs, but not how to care for one.
3	A veterinarian can give your dog checkups.	**FITS**	Checkups are part of caring for a dog.
4	Walk your dog on a leash for exercise.	**FITS**	Exercise is part of caring for a dog.
5	Some dogs have curly tails.	**STRAYS**	A dog's tail shape does not explain how to care for it.
6	Brush your dog's fur to keep it clean.	**FITS**	Brushing is a way to care for a dog.
7	Puppies are born without teeth.	**STRAYS**	This fact does not explain how to care for a dog.
8	A dog's nose can smell many things.	**STRAYS**	This fact is about a dog's nose, not its care.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FITS**: Give your dog a quiet place to sleep.
- **STRAYS**: Some dogs have spotted coats.

Challenge: Caring for a pet dog takes time and attention. First, feed your dog food made for dogs. Also, play with your dog each day. These simple steps help you care for your dog.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect a FITS sentence to dog care or show that a STRAYS sentence does not explain dog care. The challenge response should introduce the topic, group two care facts together with the requested transitions, and conclude.