

Source Trail

Gather facts, use your own words, and name your sources.

5W7 “Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from multiple sources; summarize or paraphrase; avoid plagiarism and provide a list of sources.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two source facts that appear in the paraphrase in paragraph 2, then circle the organization, page title, website, and access date in each quoted source-list entry in paragraph 3.

Researching Monarch Butterflies

- ① For a report about monarch butterflies, I gathered facts from two reliable sources. The National Park Service explains that many eastern monarchs spend winter in mountain forests in central Mexico. The Smithsonian’s National Zoo says monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves. These facts fit my topic because they explain where monarchs live in winter and what young monarchs need to grow.
- ② After reading, I wrote this paraphrase in my own words: Eastern monarch butterflies travel to forested mountains in Mexico for the winter, and their young feed on milkweed. I did not copy a full sentence from either source. My paraphrase combines the two facts, changes the wording, and keeps the original meaning. I still need to name both sources in my report.
- ③ At the end, I made a source list. One entry begins, “National Park Service. ‘Monarchs.’ NPS.gov. Accessed May 6, 2026.” Another begins, “Smithsonian’s National Zoo. ‘Monarch Butterfly.’ NationalZoo.si.edu. Accessed May 6, 2026.” Each entry names an organization, gives a page title and website, and records when I used the page. A reader can find the information again and check my work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why do the two facts in paragraph 1 fit a report about monarch butterflies?

2 Write one sentence that paraphrases both source facts from paragraph 1. Do not copy more than three words in a row from the passage.

3 What did the writer do to avoid plagiarism?

4 What four details does each source-list entry include?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a question about an animal, place, or hobby. Use two sources, then write a three-sentence paraphrase that combines one useful fact from each source without copying sentences. Below it, list both sources with the organization or author, title, website or book, and the date you used it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two source facts that appear in the paraphrase in paragraph 2, then circle the organization, page title, website, and access date in each quoted source-list entry in paragraph 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do the two facts in paragraph 1 fit a report about monarch butterflies?	They explain where eastern monarchs spend winter and what monarch caterpillars eat to grow.
2	Write one sentence that paraphrases both source facts from paragraph 1. Do not copy more than three words in a row from the passage.	Eastern monarchs winter in Mexico's mountain forests, while their caterpillars depend on milkweed for food.
3	What did the writer do to avoid plagiarism?	The writer combined facts, changed the wording, did not copy a complete sentence, and named both sources.
4	What four details does each source-list entry include?	Each entry includes an organization, a page title, a website, and an access date.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

NOAA Fisheries reports that unusually dense fur helps southern sea otters stay warm in cold Pacific water. Monterey Bay Aquarium describes how sea otters crack shell-covered food on rocks. Together, these facts show how the animals survive and find food in the ocean. NOAA Fisheries. "Southern Sea Otter." fisheries.noaa.gov. Accessed September 17, 2026. Monterey Bay Aquarium. "Sea Otter." montereybayaquarium.org. Accessed September 17, 2026.

Accept paraphrases that accurately include both monarch facts in new wording. For Your Turn, accept a clear three-sentence response using information from two sources and two source entries with the required details.