Questions on Wheels

Use clues from the past to plan a research question.

4.P.4.2.A "Formulate a viable research question related to expanding knowledge of social studies concepts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a detail that could lead to a research question, circle two sources you could use to investigate it, and put a question mark beside something you want to learn more about.

The Book Wagon

1. In 1905, librarian Mary Lemist Titcomb sent a horse-drawn wagon filled with books along roads in Washington County, Maryland. It carried books to people who lived far from the county library. The wagon made stops in the countryside, where families could borrow books. At a time when travel took longer, bringing books closer to homes could help more neighbors use the public library.

2. The library had to plan where the wagon would stop and which books it would carry. Records from the county library may offer clues about routes, book loans, and choices made by library workers. Old newspaper reports may show how residents reacted. These sources do not tell every part of the story, but they give researchers places to look for evidence about community decisions.

3. The wagon did not reach every home. Distance, road conditions, and the wagon's size may have shaped who could use it. Later, some libraries used motor vehicles to bring books to readers. Researchers can compare old library records with later reports to study how this public service changed. They can also look for voices missing from the records, including people who did not borrow books.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a research question about how the library chose the wagon's stops. Which source named in the passage could help you investigate it?

2. Write a research question about who could use the wagon. Name one detail from the passage that makes your question worth investigating.

3. Write a research question about how book delivery changed over time. Name two types of sources from the passage you could compare.

4. Write a research question about residents' reactions to the book wagon. What source named in the passage might hold evidence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a public service in your community, such as a park or bus stop. Write one focused research question about who can use it or how it has changed, name two sources you could check, and explain what the answer could teach you about your community.

ANSWER KEY

Questions on Wheels

GRADE 4 · 4.P.4.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a detail that could lead to a research question, circle two sources you could use to investigate it, and put a question mark beside something you want to learn more about. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a research question about how the library chose the wagon's stops. Which source named in the passage could help you investigate it?	**How did library workers choose the wagon's stops in 1905? County library records could offer clues.**
2	Write a research question about who could use the wagon. Name one detail from the passage that makes your question worth investigating.	**How did road conditions affect which families could borrow books? The passage says road conditions may have shaped who could use the wagon.**
3	Write a research question about how book delivery changed over time. Name two types of sources from the passage you could compare.	**How did delivery routes change as some libraries began using motor vehicles? I could compare old library records with later reports.**
4	Write a research question about residents' reactions to the book wagon. What source named in the passage might hold evidence?	**What did residents think about the wagon's stops? Old newspaper reports might hold evidence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How have the hours at our town park changed since 2015? I could check past park schedules and town council meeting notes. The answer could show how local leaders respond to residents' needs for outdoor space.

Accept varied questions that cannot be answered by copying the passage, focus on a social studies idea, and could be investigated using the named sources. For Your Turn, accept other public services and realistic sources.