Water and Evidence

Use a historical table and written sources to test a conclusion.

7.P.3.1.B "Integrate the use of visual information (e.g., maps, charts, photographs, videos, political cartoons, artwork) with textual information from primary and secondary sources to draw conclusions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about where each company got its water. Circle two numbers in the table that help you compare cholera deaths, then number the underlined detail and the circled numbers to show which evidence you would use together.

A Clue in London's Water

1. In 1854, cholera spread through London. John Snow, a physician, suspected the disease traveled in drinking water. Two companies delivered water to homes in some of the same South London streets. That overlap mattered: neighbors could face similar conditions but receive water from different sources. Snow recorded cholera deaths and counted the houses each company supplied.

2. The table adapts counts Snow published in 1855, soon after the outbreak. His report is a primary source because he investigated the epidemic and presented the results himself. The numbers cover homes supplied by each company during the 1854 outbreak. Compare deaths with the number of houses, not deaths alone, since the companies served different numbers of homes.

HOUSES SUPPLIED AND CHOLERA DEATHS, 1854

Water company	Houses supplied	Cholera deaths
Southwark and Vauxhall	40,046	1,263
Lambeth	26,107	98

3. A modern historical explanation is a secondary source. It notes that Lambeth had moved its water intake upstream, away from much of London's sewage. Southwark and Vauxhall still drew water from a more polluted stretch of the Thames. The table cannot prove what caused each person's illness, but the contrast supports Snow's idea that water sources affected cholera risk.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which company's customers appear to have faced greater cholera risk? Use numbers from the table and a detail about the water sources.

2. Why should you compare deaths with houses supplied, rather than deaths alone, when judging Snow's idea about water?

3. Does the table prove that polluted water caused every cholera death listed? Use the table and the passage to explain.

4. How does Snow's comparison of neighboring homes help you interpret the difference between the two rows of the table?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Design a follow-up investigation in three or four sentences. Name one new kind of evidence you would collect, connect your choice to a number in the table and a detail in the text, and explain what your evidence could help determine.

ANSWER KEY

Water and Evidence

GRADE 7 · 7.P.3.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about where each company got its water. Circle two numbers in the table that help you compare cholera deaths, then number the underlined detail and the circled numbers to show which evidence you would use together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which company's customers appear to have faced greater cholera risk? Use numbers from the table and a detail about the water sources.	**Southwark and Vauxhall's customers: 1,263 deaths among 40,046 houses, compared with Lambeth's 98 among 26,107. Southwark and Vauxhall drew from a more polluted stretch of the Thames.**
2	Why should you compare deaths with houses supplied, rather than deaths alone, when judging Snow's idea about water?	**Southwark and Vauxhall supplied more houses, but its death count was much higher even in proportion to houses supplied. That strengthens the connection between its more polluted water source and cholera risk.**
3	Does the table prove that polluted water caused every cholera death listed? Use the table and the passage to explain.	**No. The counts show many more deaths among homes supplied by the company drawing from a more polluted stretch, but the passage says the table cannot establish what caused each person's illness.**
4	How does Snow's comparison of neighboring homes help you interpret the difference between the two rows of the table?	**Homes in some of the same streets had similar surroundings but received water from different companies. The large difference in deaths therefore supports investigating the different water sources.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would collect records of cholera deaths from homes that changed water suppliers after 1854. Snow counted 1,263 deaths among 40,046 homes supplied by Southwark and Vauxhall, which drew water from a more polluted stretch of the Thames. If deaths fell after those homes switched to upstream water, that would offer more evidence about the role of water sources.

Accept conclusions that compare deaths in relation to houses supplied and connect the comparison to the written account of the water sources. Follow-up proposals should identify evidence that could test the connection, not claim that the table proves the cause of every death.