Tree Research Trail

Practice choosing, sorting, and crediting research information.

3.R "The student will conduct research and read or listen to a series of conceptually related texts on selected topics to build knowledge on grade-three content and texts, solve problems and support cross-curricular learning..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each source name. Underline words that explain why Maya trusts or does not trust a source, then number the two note categories 1 and 2.

Maya Studies City Trees

1. Fictional classroom model: Maya, the book City Trees by Nora Bell, and the described webpages are invented. Maya chose the topic "How do city trees help people?" She wrote three questions: "Do trees cool streets?" "Do trees help animals?" and "Where should new trees be planted?" At the library, she used the book City Trees by Nora Bell. She also read a webpage from the Parks Department. On each note card, Maya wrote the fact, the source title, and the author when one was listed.

2. One card said that tree shade can make sidewalks and nearby buildings cooler. Maya put this card in a category called "Cooling." Another card explained that trees can offer food and shelter to birds and insects. She filed it under "Animals." Maya did not use an unsigned post that claimed one tree could cool an entire city. It gave no source and sounded too big to be true.

3. To share her research, Maya made a small poster with two headings, "Cooling" and "Animals." Under each heading, she wrote a fact in her own words. At the bottom, she added Sources: City Trees, Nora Bell, and Parks Department webpage. Maya explained that the book and department webpage were more reliable than the unsigned post because readers could tell who made them and check the information. Naming an author is a starting clue, not a guarantee; the class should also check the source's evidence against another source.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic did Maya choose? Write one question she asked about that topic.

2 Name the source Maya decided not to use. Why did she not trust it?

3 What two categories did Maya use to organize her note cards?

4 How did Maya give credit to her sources on her poster?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic and two questions. With teacher support, read two real sources. Record one brief note from each in your own words, its category, and the title and author or organization when available. Explain one reason to trust or question each source. On an attached half-sheet make a small two-heading poster or give a short talk that combines your notes and credits both sources.

CATEGORY / QUESTION	OWN-WORD FACT	SOURCE / CHECK

ANSWER KEY

Tree Research Trail

GRADE 3 · 3.R

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each source name. Underline words that explain why Maya trusts or does not trust a source, then number the two note categories 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic did Maya choose? Write one question she asked about that topic.	**Her topic was how city trees help people. Accept any one of her three questions about cooling streets, helping animals, or where to plant new trees.**
2	Name the source Maya decided not to use. Why did she not trust it?	**She did not use the unsigned post because it gave no source and made a claim that sounded too big to be true.**
3	What two categories did Maya use to organize her note cards?	**Cooling and Animals.**
4	How did Maya give credit to her sources on her poster?	**She listed the source title and author when available, including City Trees by Nora Bell and the Parks Department webpage.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Varies with sources. Require two accurate, categorized source notes and a small credited product. A credibility explanation refers to checkable evidence, relevant knowledge or agreement with another supported source, not just a formal-looking name.

Accept any passage-based wording for Questions 1 through 4. For the open task, accept a clear topic, two related questions, two useful categories, and two possible sources with credit information when available. Verify notes against the actual sources. Fictional titles in the model must not be cited as real research. Accept accurate drawing, writing and oral sharing appropriate to grade three.