# Source Detective

Check which sources best support a research question.

**5.R.1.C** "Organize and synthesize information from the print and digital resources, evaluating their relevance, reliability, and credibility."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline details that show why a source is relevant or trustworthy. Circle the detail that makes one source hard to trust.

### Maya Checks Her Sources

1. This is an invented classroom example. Its unnamed guide and websites are practice descriptions, not citations to actual publications. For a class poster about monarch butterflies, Maya began with a print field guide from the library. It was published by a museum in 2022 and listed its authors, a biologist and an illustrator. The guide explained that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed. Maya wrote that fact on a note card because it fit her topic and came from named experts.

2. Next, Maya found a web page from a university insect lab. The page showed the date it was updated and linked to a study about monarch migration. She also found a post on a travel blog that said all orange butterflies migrate to Mexico. The post named no writer and gave no sources for its claim.

3. To organize her research, Maya made a chart with columns for each source, its evidence, and her decision. She kept the milkweed fact and used the university page for migration details. She left out the travel-blog statement. Its broad claim did not match her exact question, and she could not check who wrote it or where the information came from.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What details make the print field guide a credible source for Maya's poster?

2. Which digital source is the better choice for migration details? Give two details that support your choice.

3. Why did Maya leave out the travel-blog statement?

4. What three kinds of information did Maya put in her research chart?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal question you want to research. Make a two-row source chart using one print source and one digital source. For each source, include its title and creator or organization, one relevant fact, and your decision about whether to use it. Then write one sentence explaining how the two sources work together.

| SOURCE TYPE | TITLE AND CREATOR OR ORGANIZATION | RELEVANT FACT | DECISION |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |

**ANSWER KEY**

# Source Detective

**GRADE 5 · 5.R.1.C**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show why a source is relevant or trustworthy. Circle the detail that makes one source hard to trust. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What details make the print field guide a credible source for Maya's poster? | **It was published by a museum in 2022 and named its authors, including a biologist.** |
| 2 | Which digital source is the better choice for migration details? Give two details that support your choice. | **The university insect lab page. It showed an update date and linked to a study about monarch migration.** |
| 3 | Why did Maya leave out the travel-blog statement? | **The claim was too broad for her question, and the post gave no writer or sources to check.** |
| 4 | What three kinds of information did Maya put in her research chart? | **Each source, its evidence, and her decision about using it.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Partial model — students must complete it with sources they actually consult. Question: Why can bald eagle nests become large? Digital source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "Bald Eagle Life History," allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/lifehistory. Relevant facts: nests are typically 5–6 feet across, and a reused nest may receive new material each year. This source directly addresses the question and identifies an ornithology organization. Print row: record the actual book or article title, creator, page and relevant fact you checked. Then write your own sentence combining the two sources; do not claim a print source was consulted unless it was.

Accept answers that identify relevant evidence and make a reasonable judgment about a source's trustworthiness. For Part 3, accept different topics and sources when the student includes both source types, relevant facts, source checks, and a synthesis sentence.