Monarch Research Trail

Use sources, notes, and headings to build a short research report.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.7 "Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the two sources in the passage and underline three facts you could use in a report. These marks show how a researcher gathers useful information.

Following Monarchs

1. Each fall, many monarch butterflies leave the northern United States and Canada. They fly south to mountain forests in central Mexico, where they spend the winter. In spring, adults that survived the winter begin moving north and reproduce. Their children and later generations continue northward. The annual migration cycle spans several generations, rather than one butterfly making the complete journey.

2. To learn why monarchs travel, a student can use more than one source. A map from the National Park Service shows the butterflies' winter home in Mexico. A book by insect scientist Karen Oberhauser explains that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed plants. Comparing sources helps a researcher check facts and learn new details about the topic.

3. After reading sources, the student writes notes in her own words. Her notes say that monarchs need milkweed for caterpillars and nectar from flowers for adult butterflies. Then she groups the notes under headings, such as Food and Travel. A short report can explain how the facts fit together. It can also list the sources used at the end.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic do the sources help a student research?

2. What are the two sources named in the passage?

3. Write one fact that fits under the heading Food and one fact that fits under the heading Travel.

4. How do headings help a researcher use notes?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a local animal or plant to research. Write one research question, name two sources, and record at least three facts in your own words under two headings. Then write a three-sentence mini-report using your notes.

ANSWER KEY

Monarch Research Trail

GRADE 3 · W.3.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the two sources in the passage and underline three facts you could use in a report. These marks show how a researcher gathers useful information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic do the sources help a student research?	**Monarch butterflies, including their travel and food needs.**
2	What are the two sources named in the passage?	**A map from the National Park Service and a book by Karen Oberhauser.**
3	Write one fact that fits under the heading Food and one fact that fits under the heading Travel.	**Food: Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed plants. Travel: Monarchs spend the winter in central Mexico.**
4	How do headings help a researcher use notes?	**Headings group notes so the researcher can see how facts fit together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Research question: How do earthworms help garden soil? Sources: National Geographic Kids website and a school library nonfiction book about earthworms. Notes, Home: Earthworms live in damp soil. Food and Soil: They eat dead plant parts, and their tunnels let air and water move through soil. Mini-report: Earthworms live underground in damp soil. They eat dead plant parts. Their tunnels help air and water reach plant roots.

Accept answers that identify the monarch topic, the two named sources, and passage facts organized by a fitting heading. For Part 3, accept a clear research question, two reasonable sources, at least three accurate notes in two groups, and a three-sentence report based on the notes.