Clues Across Sources

Use evidence, check sources, and plan the next question.

ELA.7.C.4.1 "Conduct research to answer a question, drawing on multiple reliable and valid sources and generating additional questions for further research."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each source Maya uses. Circle details that show why a source is reliable or what limit it has, then number the research question and the further-research question.

Investigating City Heat

1. When Maya noticed that her neighborhood bus stop felt much hotter than a nearby park, she formed a research question: How do trees affect summer temperatures in cities? She did not trust the first website she found. Instead, Maya looked for sources with evidence and clear authors. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration webpage explained how pavement absorbs and releases heat. Because NOAA is a federal science agency, its information came from climate experts and included links to data. Maya wrote the author, date, and main idea in her notes.

2. Next, Maya read a peer-reviewed article in an environmental science journal. Researchers had measured air temperatures and tree cover in several cities. The article reported that shaded areas were often cooler than places with little tree cover. Peer review meant other scientists had examined the study before publication. Maya also checked her city's parks department map, which listed tree locations and planting dates. She compared the sources rather than assuming one source proved everything. Together, they suggested that trees can reduce local heat by providing shade and cooling surfaces.

3. Maya's research answered part of her question, but it also had limits. The NOAA page described a broad scientific pattern, while the journal article used measurements from selected cities. The parks map showed where trees were planted, but it did not show temperatures at each location. Maya decided that a stronger local investigation would need temperature readings from shaded and unshaded bus stops at the same time of day. She generated a new question for further research: Do newly planted street trees cool bus stops as much as older, larger trees?

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What question did Maya investigate? Name two sources she used to answer it.

2. Name exactly two details that make the NOAA webpage a reliable source.

3. Why was it useful for Maya to compare the three sources instead of relying on only one?

4. What evidence would Maya need for a stronger local investigation, and what further question did she generate?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Source packet: fictional Fern reading club
These classroom-authored records are invented for a limited scheduling and supply inquiry, not real-school facts.

Source A: coordinator's room and signup record, October 9, 2026
Fourteen students have signed up for a club meeting in Room 6 from 10:00 to 10:30. The room has 9 usable chairs available then. Each student needs one chair.

Source B: librarian's checked lending record, October 9, 2026
The library has 3 additional usable chairs, separate from Room 6's inventory, available to lend from 9:50 to 10:40. They must be returned by 10:40. The record does not list other lenders or extra chairs elsewhere.

Research this question: Can the club seat all 14 students using these two records? Actually read both sources and make source-labeled notes on extra paper. In 3–4 sentences, state the question, compare and combine the evidence into a supported answer, explain why these records are relevant and directly usable, and generate an additional research question based on a real missing detail. Keep your notes for your teacher.

ANSWER KEY

Clues Across Sources

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.C.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each source Maya uses. Circle details that show why a source is reliable or what limit it has, then number the research question and the further-research question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What question did Maya investigate? Name two sources she used to answer it.	**She investigated how trees affect summer temperatures in cities. She used any two of these sources: the NOAA webpage, a peer-reviewed environmental science journal article, and her city's parks department map.**
2	Name exactly two details that make the NOAA webpage a reliable source.	**NOAA is a federal science agency, and its information came from climate experts.**
3	Why was it useful for Maya to compare the three sources instead of relying on only one?	**Each source provided different evidence and had limits. The NOAA page gave a broad pattern, the journal article used selected-city measurements, and the map showed tree locations but not temperatures.**
4	What evidence would Maya need for a stronger local investigation, and what further question did she generate?	**She would need temperature readings from shaded and unshaded bus stops at the same time of day. Her further question asked whether newly planted street trees cool bus stops as much as older, larger trees.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is whether Fern reading club can seat all 14 students using these records. Source A lists 9 room chairs for the 10:00–10:30 meeting, while Source B provides 3 separate library chairs during an interval covering that meeting. These dated inventory and lending records directly address the question: 9 + 3 = 12 usable chairs, leaving 2 students without chairs, so the club cannot seat everyone with the listed supply alone. My additional question is where the club can borrow 2 more usable chairs for that period; another checked lending record would help answer it.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the sources and evidence from the passage. For Your Turn, require actual A/B notes and a 3–4-sentence supported response, relevant source reasons and a genuine further question. Verify 9 + 3 = 12 and 14 − 12 = 2; meeting 10:00–10:30 lies within library availability 9:50–10:40. Extra chairs explicitly separate from room inventory. No other lender is established by this packet, so further borrowing remains a question rather than a finding. Other supported follow-up gaps are acceptable. A would-use plan alone is insufficient; support reading and notes without requiring live internet.