Whose Words?

Use evidence about Earth's water without losing track of its source.

6.W.8.b "Quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the USGS's exact words, circle a sentence that restates one of its numbers in new words, and box the source details. These marks will help you tell a quotation, a paraphrase, and source credit apart.

A Water-Covered Planet

1 Imagine filling a giant jar with every drop of water on Earth. Would the ocean get most of it? The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) answers this question with a striking number. On its Water Science School page "How Much Water is There on Earth?," the USGS states, "About 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water-covered, and the oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all Earth's water." Those numbers describe two different things: the space water covers on Earth and the amount of water stored in oceans.

2 Oceans contain almost all of Earth's water, even though their surface covers a smaller share of the planet. This does not mean a student could drink from the sea. Ocean water contains salt, and drinking it as it is would not meet a person's need for fresh water. At school, a water fountain offers fresh water, while a beach offers a much larger supply that cannot be used the same way. The difference makes the small share of water outside the oceans worth thinking about.

3 At a school water fountain, a full bottle can make water seem easy to find. Yet a bottle holds fresh water, not seawater. The USGS numbers offer useful context for that difference, though they do not tell us how much drinkable water any one town has. I would need a different source to make a claim about my town's supply. Source: U.S. Geological Survey, "How Much Water is There on Earth?," USGS Water Science School website. Naming the source makes it possible for readers to check the evidence behind these claims.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the USGS statement about Earth's water exactly, including quotation marks. Who said it?

2. In your own words, report the USGS finding about how much of Earth's water is in the oceans. Name the source.

3. A writer puts this in quotation marks: “About 71 percent of Earth's water is in oceans.” Why is it not an accurate USGS quote? Give the correct number and name the source.

4. Write a basic source entry for the USGS information. Include the organization, page title, and website named in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences for a school display explaining why Earth can have lots of water but limited fresh water. Quote the USGS fact about how much of Earth's surface has water, paraphrase its different fact about where Earth's water is stored, and add your own conclusion. Then give the organization, page title, and website on a separate source line.

ANSWER KEY

Whose Words?

GRADE 6 · 6.W.8.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the USGS's exact words, circle a sentence that restates one of its numbers in new words, and box the source details. These marks will help you tell a quotation, a paraphrase, and source credit apart. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the USGS statement about Earth's water exactly, including quotation marks. Who said it?	**"About 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water-covered, and the oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all Earth's water." The U.S. Geological Survey said it.**
2	In your own words, report the USGS finding about how much of Earth's water is in the oceans. Name the source.	**According to the USGS, oceans store about 96.5 out of every 100 parts of Earth's water.**
3	A writer puts this in quotation marks: "About 71 percent of Earth's water is in oceans." Why is it not an accurate USGS quote? Give the correct number and name the source.	**The writer changed what the 71 percent measures. According to the USGS, oceans hold about 96.5 percent of Earth's water; about 71 percent of Earth's surface is covered by water.**
4	Write a basic source entry for the USGS information. Include the organization, page title, and website named in the passage.	**U.S. Geological Survey. "How Much Water is There on Earth?" USGS Water Science School website.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The USGS says "About 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water-covered," so water is widespread. According to the USGS, oceans store about 96.5 out of every 100 parts of Earth's water. Because seawater is salty, a large supply of it cannot replace the fresh water people need.
Source: U.S. Geological Survey, "How Much Water is There on Earth?," USGS Water Science School website.

Accept accurate paraphrases that keep surface coverage separate from the share of water stored in oceans. For the open task, check that the quoted words match the passage, the other fact uses the student's own wording, and the source line includes all three requested details.