Seagrass Source Search

Compare evidence from a field journal and a research report.

5.7 "Response skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student responds to an increasingly challenging variety of sources that are read, heard, or viewed..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail from Maya's journal and one detail from the research report that tell about seagrass. Circle words that show why the two sources provide different kinds of evidence.

Two Views of Seagrass

1. Seagrass meadows grow in shallow coastal water. Although seagrass looks like seaweed, it is a flowering plant with roots, leaves, and seeds. Its long blades slow waves and trap sand, which can protect shorelines. Many young fish and crabs hide among the blades. Scientists study these meadows because healthy seagrass can support many kinds of animals.

2. During a class visit, student Maya counted small fish in a patch of seagrass near a dock. Her field journal says, "I saw twelve silver fish under the leaves. When a boat passed, the water moved, but the roots held the sand in place." Maya's notes describe what she observed at one small site on one morning.

3. The class also read a coastal research report. It explained that researchers compared several bays over three years. Bays with more seagrass had more young fish than bare sandy areas. The report also stated that anchors and muddy runoff can damage meadows. Unlike Maya's journal, the report uses measurements from many places to explain a broader pattern.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which detail from Maya's journal supports the idea that seagrass can help protect shorelines?

2. How are Maya's journal and the research report alike, and how are they different?

3. What does the phrase "broader pattern" mean in paragraph 3? Use details from the passage in your answer.

4. Write a two-sentence summary that explains why seagrass matters and how the two sources add information.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a text you have read or viewed, or a place you have visited, that connects to this article. Write exactly three sentences that explain the connection, compare one idea, and use the word runoff correctly.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · TEKS 5.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail from Maya's journal and one detail from the research report that tell about seagrass. Circle words that show why the two sources provide different kinds of evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which detail from Maya's journal supports the idea that seagrass can help protect shorelines?	**"The roots held the sand in place."**
2	How are Maya's journal and the research report alike, and how are they different?	**Both give information about seagrass and young fish. Maya's journal describes one observation at one site, while the report uses measurements from several bays over three years.**
3	What does the phrase "broader pattern" mean in paragraph 3? Use details from the passage in your answer.	**It means a trend seen across many places. The researchers found that bays with more seagrass had more young fish than bare sandy areas.**
4	Write a two-sentence summary that explains why seagrass matters and how the two sources add information.	**Seagrass is a flowering plant that supports animals and helps protect shorelines by trapping sand. Maya's journal gives one observation of fish and roots at a dock, while the research report uses data from several bays to show a broader pattern.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A video I watched about mangrove forests explained that their roots shelter young animals. Like seagrass, mangroves can protect animals, but the article says seagrass blades trap sand while mangrove roots grow above the water. Both habitats can be harmed when runoff carries mud into coastal water.

Accept answers that accurately distinguish Maya's single-site observation from the report's evidence from several bays. For the open response, accept a reasonable personal or text-to-text connection when it includes a comparison and uses runoff correctly.