

Owl Claim Check

Track how evidence changes a conclusion.

6.6 "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 the class's first claim and its revised claim. Circle two facts that explain why the first claim needed to change.

Listening for Owls

- ① At dusk, students in Riverbend joined a bird club survey of eastern screech-owls, small owls that are active at night. Each team stood quietly in a city park for ten minutes and recorded any whinny or tremolo call they heard. They wrote the park name, time, weather, and direction of each sound on a map. The teams did not see an owl, but recordings helped them compare sounds later. By the end of two weeks, the class had notes from twelve parks.
- ② When the students listened to the recordings, they found owl calls in eight parks. Several recordings included two calls close together, and the maps showed that calls came from different parts of the city. Based on these notes, the class first claimed that at least eight individual owls lived in the parks. Maya disagreed in her response. She wrote that the recordings proved owl calls were heard in eight parks, but they did not prove how many individual owls made those calls.
- ③ A wildlife biologist then reviewed the survey sheets. She pointed out that teams visited parks on four different evenings, not at the same time. One owl could have been recorded in more than one nearby park on different nights, and a call cannot identify a particular bird. This new evidence did not change the record that calls were logged in eight parks. It did weaken the estimate of at least eight owls. The class revised its claim: eastern screech-owl calls were recorded in eight Riverbend parks during the survey.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Paraphrase Maya's response. What did the recordings prove, and what did they not prove?

2 Compare the recordings with the biologist's review. What did each source contribute to the class's understanding?

3 Write one sentence explaining why the class changed its claim. Use two details from the third paragraph as evidence.

4 What can you infer about responsible researchers from the class's revision? Support your inference with one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence message to the bird club explaining the class's revised conclusion. In your message, state why the first estimate was not supported, include one detail from the biologist's review, and give the revised claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the class's first claim and its revised claim. Circle two facts that explain why the first claim needed to change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Paraphrase Maya's response. What did the recordings prove, and what did they not prove?	The recordings proved that owl calls were heard in eight parks, but they did not prove the number of individual owls that made the calls.
2	Compare the recordings with the biologist's review. What did each source contribute to the class's understanding?	The recordings showed that calls were logged in eight parks. The biologist's review explained that the surveys occurred on different evenings and that calls could not identify individual birds.
3	Write one sentence explaining why the class changed its claim. Use two details from the third paragraph as evidence.	The class changed its claim because surveys happened on four different evenings, one owl could be recorded in nearby parks on different nights, and calls cannot identify a particular bird.
4	What can you infer about responsible researchers from the class's revision? Support your inference with one detail from the passage.	Responsible researchers adjust their conclusions when new evidence shows that a claim is not fully supported, as the class did after the biologist reviewed the survey sheets.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our first estimate was not supported because it treated calls in eight parks as eight different owls. The biologist explained that visits occurred on four different evenings, so one owl might have been recorded in nearby parks on different nights. We should report that eastern screech-owl calls were recorded in eight Riverbend parks during the survey.

Accept clear paraphrases that distinguish recorded calls from individual owls. For the open response, accept equivalent evidence-based wording if it includes all three required ideas and does not claim that eight individual owls were found.