

Digital Trail Detectives

Analyze how digital features guide readers through information.

6.8.F “analyze characteristics of multimodal and digital texts.; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two text features and circle two visual or interactive features on the webpage. Number 1 through 4 beside them to show the order a visitor might use them to learn about Luna.

Track the Turtles

- ① On the City Science Center website, the page title reads “Track the Turtles.” A wide photo shows a green sea turtle swimming above coral. Its caption says, “Luna was released after treatment on May 14.” Beside the photo, a blue button says “Watch Luna’s Route.” When visitors select it, an animated map opens. A moving dot marks Luna’s location each day, while a key explains that orange dots show feeding stops and purple dots show resting areas.
- ② Below the map, a short article explains why scientists track sea turtles. The article has subheadings, including “Finding Food” and “Avoiding Danger,” so visitors can quickly locate a topic. Blue, underlined links lead to pages about satellite tags and coral reefs. A small speaker icon plays a recording of ocean waves and a scientist describing Luna’s journey. These features give visitors choices about how they explore the information.
- ③ The webpage changes as Luna travels. A box near the top says “Last updated: June 3,” and a new map point appears after researchers receive data from her tag. Visitors can also select a calendar to compare Luna’s route on different dates. At the bottom, a “Share This Route” button lets users send the page to others. Unlike a printed brochure, this digital text can add new information and interactive tools over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the photo caption and the animated map work together to help a visitor learn about Luna?

2 Why is the key on the animated map important?

3 Which two features help a visitor find or explore information in different ways? Explain what each feature does.

4 What makes this webpage different from a printed brochure? Use one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a two-sentence plan for a digital page about an animal migration. Name two multimodal or digital features you would include, and explain how each feature would help visitors understand the animal's journey.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two text features and circle two visual or interactive features on the webpage. Number 1 through 4 beside them to show the order a visitor might use them to learn about Luna. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the photo caption and the animated map work together to help a visitor learn about Luna?	The caption identifies Luna and gives her release date, while the animated map shows where she travels each day.
2	Why is the key on the animated map important?	It explains that orange dots are feeding stops and purple dots are resting areas.
3	Which two features help a visitor find or explore information in different ways? Explain what each feature does.	The subheadings help visitors quickly find a topic, and the blue links take visitors to related pages. The speaker icon is also acceptable because it plays audio about Luna's journey.
4	What makes this webpage different from a printed brochure? Use one detail from the passage.	The webpage can be updated as Luna travels, such as by adding new map points after researchers receive tag data. It also has interactive tools, such as the calendar and share button.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My page about monarch butterflies would include an interactive map with colored arrows to show their migration route. A photo gallery with captions would help visitors see the butterflies and learn what happens at each stop.

Accept answers that correctly connect a digital or multimodal feature to its purpose for readers or viewers. For Part 3, students should name two appropriate features and explain a clear use for each.