Evidence Hunt

Compare sources for information that fits a decision.

7.12.D "identify and gather relevant information from a variety of sources;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each fact or number the council gathered, circle the source it came from, and number the sources 1 through 6. These marks will help you see which sources provide information for different parts of the decision.

A Better Bottle Plan

1. When Lincoln Middle School considered adding water bottle refill stations, the student council needed more than opinions. It gathered information from several sources. First, a district maintenance report showed that the school's two older fountains needed frequent repairs. The report listed 18 repair requests during the previous school year. Next, council members surveyed 126 students. In the survey, 94 students said they carried reusable bottles at least once a week. The group wrote each finding on a note card and recorded where the information came from.

2. To learn whether refill stations could reduce waste, the council used a county recycling office webpage. The webpage explained that refill stations can help people use fewer single-use plastic bottles, but it did not measure Lincoln Middle School's trash. For local evidence, the custodial staff weighed plastic bottles collected in cafeteria bins for five lunch days. Their log showed an average of 143 bottles per day. This local count was especially useful because it described the school's own waste, rather than waste in another community.

3. Finally, the council compared costs. A refill-station company's catalog gave prices for three models, ranging from $1,200 to $2,100 before installation. Because a company wants to sell equipment, the council treated those prices as a starting point, not a final cost. The district purchasing office then shared invoices from two nearby schools that had installed similar stations. Those invoices included installation charges. By using both sources, the council could estimate a more complete cost and explain which details still needed to be checked before making a recommendation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Choose two different sources from paragraph 1. For each source, state the information it gave the council.

2. Which source in paragraph 2 gives the best evidence about Lincoln Middle School's own plastic-bottle waste? Use one detail from that source in your answer.

3. Why did the council use the invoices from nearby schools in addition to the refill-station company's catalog?

4. What does each source contribute: the county recycling office webpage and the custodial staff's log?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one research question about a school improvement. Then list three different sources you would use, the specific information you would gather from each source, and why each source would help answer your question.

SOURCE	SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO GATHER	WHY THIS SOURCE WOULD HELP

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Hunt

GRADE 7 · TEKS 7.12.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each fact or number the council gathered, circle the source it came from, and number the sources 1 through 6. These marks will help you see which sources provide information for different parts of the decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Choose two different sources from paragraph 1. For each source, state the information it gave the council.	**The district maintenance report listed 18 repair requests for the older fountains. The student survey showed that 94 of 126 students carried reusable bottles at least once a week.**
2	Which source in paragraph 2 gives the best evidence about Lincoln Middle School's own plastic-bottle waste? Use one detail from that source in your answer.	**The custodial staff's bin-weighing log is the best source because it measured Lincoln Middle School's cafeteria bottles for five lunch days and found an average of 143 bottles per day.**
3	Why did the council use the invoices from nearby schools in addition to the refill-station company's catalog?	**The catalog gave equipment prices before installation, while the invoices included installation charges. The invoices helped the council estimate a more complete cost.**
4	What does each source contribute: the county recycling office webpage and the custodial staff's log?	**The county webpage gives general information that refill stations can reduce single-use bottle use. The custodial log gives local information about the number of bottles collected at Lincoln Middle School.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Research question: Should Lincoln Middle School add a shaded outdoor lunch area? 1. Student survey: I would gather how many students would use the area and at what times, because students can describe their needs. 2. School facilities records: I would gather available space and maintenance costs, because the project must fit the campus and budget. 3. Local weather data: I would gather temperatures and sunny days during lunch months, because shade is most useful in hot, sunny conditions.

Accept answers that accurately identify information and connect it to the source that provided it. For Part 3, students should use three distinct sources and explain how each source is relevant to their research question.