

Career Clue Trail

Trace how varied STEM resources build a career investigation.

8.4.C “research and explore resources such as museums, libraries, professional organizations, private companies, online platforms, and mentors employed in a science, technology, engineering...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each resource Maya uses and number the six resources in the order she uses them. Circle details that help her decide what a source can tell her or how much to trust it.

Maya Investigates Environmental Engineering

- ① When Maya became curious about environmental engineering, she did not begin with a job title search alone. At a science museum, she studied a display about water-treatment systems and wrote down questions about removing pollutants. A museum educator explained that engineers test designs before communities use them. This visit gave Maya a real problem to investigate, not a complete career picture. She noted the educator's name and the exhibit's sources, so she could check ideas later.
- ② Next, Maya used the public library's career database to compare education requirements and daily tasks. She read an article from a professional engineering organization, which described licensure and ethical responsibilities. The article listed its author and publication date, so Maya could judge who created it and when. She saved the organization name, the database title, and two facts she wanted to verify. These details helped her return to reliable sources instead of depending on one webpage.
- ③ To learn what work looks like now, Maya examined a local water company's job posting. It named software skills and field sampling duties, but it also aimed to hire workers. She compared it with an online platform where engineers described projects and answered career questions. Finally, she asked a civil engineer who mentors students how environmental engineers cooperate with other specialists. The mentor explained personal experience, not every workplace. Maya planned to check each claim with another source before making a career decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Maya gain from the science museum that a job title search alone did not give her?

2 Name two details from the professional organization article that helped Maya judge the source.

3 Why did Maya compare the water company's job posting with an online platform?

4 What could Maya learn from the mentor, and what limit did she recognize about that information?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one STEM career you want to investigate. In each row, name a different type of resource, state one specific thing it could help you learn, and write one question you would use with that resource.

RESOURCE TYPE	WHAT I COULD LEARN	QUESTION I WOULD ASK

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each resource Maya uses and number the six resources in the order she uses them. Circle details that help her decide what a source can tell her or how much to trust it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Maya gain from the science museum that a job title search alone did not give her?	She gained a real engineering problem, water treatment and pollutant removal, to investigate.
2	Name two details from the professional organization article that helped Maya judge the source.	The article listed its author and its publication date.
3	Why did Maya compare the water company's job posting with an online platform?	The job posting gave current skills and duties but was designed to hire workers. Comparing it with engineers' descriptions gave her another source of information.
4	What could Maya learn from the mentor, and what limit did she recognize about that information?	She could learn how environmental engineers cooperate with other specialists. She recognized that the mentor's experience did not represent every workplace.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

RESOURCE TYPE	WHAT I COULD LEARN	QUESTION I WOULD ASK
Public library career database	the education and training required for a cybersecurity analyst	What degree or certificate do employers usually require?
Professional computing organization	ethical responsibilities in cybersecurity	What ethical rules guide professionals who protect private data?
Mentor who works in cybersecurity	how analysts respond during a security incident	What part of incident response requires the most teamwork?

Accept equivalent descriptions of the resources and their limits when supported by the passage. For Part 3, accept any STEM career and three different appropriate resource types with specific, relevant questions.