Credit Trail

Trace borrowed material to clear, complete source information.

12.C.3.E "Provide appropriate citation of all content from external sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each fact, image, or idea that came from an outside source. Circle the bracketed citation or source detail that helps readers trace that material.

Sources Beneath the Wetlands Panel

1. A museum panel about coastal wetlands uses several sources, not one website. It states that wetlands can lessen wave energy and store carbon, followed by [1][2]. Those numbers point to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration page and a Smithsonian Ocean page used for those factual claims. The panel also says, "Walk slowly and listen for birds." No citation follows that sentence because the exhibit team wrote it as an invitation. Citations let readers distinguish the writer's own language from facts, images, quotations, or ideas borrowed from another creator. They also help readers find the original material and judge its reliability.

2. Later, the panel includes a satellite image of a mangrove shoreline. The caption names the image maker, gives the image title and date, and lists a source link, followed by [3]. A credit such as "image found online" would not be enough, since readers could not identify the creator or locate the image. The panel paraphrases a scientist's explanation of why mangrove roots trap sediment. After the paraphrase, it uses [4], even though none of the scientist's exact words appear. Changing wording does not make another person's researched idea the writer's own.

3. At the bottom, a numbered source list matches the bracketed citations. Entry 1 reads: NOAA Ocean Service. "What Is a Wetland?" NOAA, oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/wetlands.html. Accessed 10 August 2026. Entry 2 identifies Smithsonian Ocean's mangrove page with its organization, title, link, and access date. Entries 3 and 4 identify the image source and the scientist's publication. If the panel used a chart, map, video, or data set, each borrowed item would need a citation too. A reader should be able to match every external contribution to a source record without guessing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two factual claims in the first paragraph are supported by citations [1][2]?

2. Why does the sentence inviting visitors to walk slowly and listen for birds not need a citation?

3. Name three details the image caption includes so readers can trace the borrowed image.

4. Why does the panel place citation [4] after a paraphrase instead of leaving the paraphrase uncited?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences for a museum label on a topic you choose. Include one paraphrased fact with a bracketed citation, one image-credit sentence with a second bracketed citation, and a numbered two-entry source list that gives the creator or organization, title, link, and access date.

ANSWER KEY

Credit Trail

GRADE 12 · 12.C.3.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each fact, image, or idea that came from an outside source. Circle the bracketed citation or source detail that helps readers trace that material. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two factual claims in the first paragraph are supported by citations [1][2]?	**That wetlands can lessen wave energy and store carbon.**
2	Why does the sentence inviting visitors to walk slowly and listen for birds not need a citation?	**The exhibit team wrote it as its own invitation, not as borrowed material.**
3	Name three details the image caption includes so readers can trace the borrowed image.	**The image maker, the image title, the date, and a source link. Accept any three.**
4	Why does the panel place citation [4] after a paraphrase instead of leaving the paraphrase uncited?	**The scientist's researched idea is still borrowed even though the panel changes the wording.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the Moon [1]. The image, "Buzz Aldrin on the Moon," was photographed by Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969 [2]. This label credits both the researched fact and the borrowed image. [1] National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "Apollo 11." NASA, https://www.nasa.gov/mission/apollo-11/. Accessed 10 August 2026. [2] National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "Buzz Aldrin on the Moon." NASA Image and Video Library, https://images.nasa.gov/details/as11-40-5903. Accessed 10 August 2026.

Accept another consistent citation system if each in-text citation clearly matches a complete source entry. Require students to cite every borrowed fact, idea, quotation, image, or other media item, not just direct quotations.