Topic Question Trail

Focus a topic, then ask questions that fit it.

3.R.1.A "Identify a topic and generate questions that explore the topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's smaller topic. Circle each question that helps her explore that topic.

Maya Studies Beavers

1. Maya noticed a muddy dam across a stream near the park. A beaver had built it with sticks, stones, and mud. She wanted to learn more, but "beavers" was a very big topic. Maya chose one smaller topic: how beavers change a stream. A smaller topic helped her think about what information she needed to find.

2. First, Maya asked, "What happens to the water when a beaver builds a dam?" This question matched her smaller topic because it was about the stream. Next, she asked, "What plants grow near the pond behind a dam?" Looking at water and plants could show ways a beaver changes the place. She planned to find answers in library books and safe nature websites.

3. Maya did not ask, "Are beavers nice?" People could give different opinions, and the answer would not explain stream changes. She also did not ask, "Do beavers have fur?" That fact might be interesting, but it did not fit her smaller topic. Before researching, Maya checked each question. She kept questions that could help her learn how a beaver changes a stream.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What smaller topic did Maya choose to study?

2. Why did Maya choose a smaller topic instead of studying all about beavers?

3. Copy one question Maya kept. What part of her topic does it explore?

4. Does “Do beavers have fur?” fit Maya's smaller topic? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic you want to learn about, such as an animal, a game, or a place. Write your topic and three questions that would help you explore it.

ANSWER KEY

Topic Question Trail

GRADE 3 · 3.R.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's smaller topic. Circle each question that helps her explore that topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What smaller topic did Maya choose to study?	**How beavers change a stream.**
2	Why did Maya choose a smaller topic instead of studying all about beavers?	**A smaller topic helped her decide what information she needed to find.**
3	Copy one question Maya kept. What part of her topic does it explore?	**Answers may include: "What happens to the water when a beaver builds a dam?" It explores changes to the stream water. OR "What plants grow near the pond behind a dam?" It explores plant changes near the stream.**
4	Does "Do beavers have fur?" fit Maya's smaller topic? Explain.	**No. It is an interesting fact, but it does not help explain how a beaver changes a stream.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Topic: How a seed grows into a plant. Questions: What does a seed need to begin growing? How do roots help the new plant? Why does the young plant need sunlight?

Accept a topic that is clear and three questions that connect to it. Questions may have different wording if they are focused, answerable, and related to the student's topic.