Source Sorting Squad

Sort evidence by topic and judge the source.

3.R.1.C "Organize evidence into relevant categories, recognizing that some sources may be more reliable than others."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each source and underline its claim. Write P, F, or G beside each claim for Plants Monarchs Need, Flower Ideas to Check, or Garden Color, then put a star beside the source the class found most reliable.

Planning a Monarch Garden

1. Third graders at Pine School wanted to help monarch butterflies. They asked, "What should we plant?" Ms. Rivera brought three sources. A state park website, written by butterfly scientists, said monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves. A gardening blog said bright flowers are enough for every butterfly. A neighbor said monarchs only visit gardens painted yellow.

2. The class made evidence cards. Under "Plants Monarchs Need," they placed the milkweed fact from the park website. Under "Flower Ideas to Check," they placed the blog's bright-flower claim. Under "Garden Color," they placed the neighbor's yellow-paint claim. The class noticed that each card named its source. This helped them compare the claims instead of mixing them together.

3. Ms. Rivera said the park website was the most reliable source because scientists wrote it and it named what caterpillars eat. The blog might have useful ideas, but it did not explain where its claim came from. The neighbor's idea was only one person's observation. The class chose milkweed for its plan. They kept the other two claims in separate categories until they could find stronger evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What source gave evidence for the category "Plants Monarchs Need"? What did that source say?

2. How did putting the claims into categories help the class?

3. Which source did Ms. Rivera say was most reliable? Give two details from the passage that explain why.

4. Why did the class keep the blog claim and the neighbor's claim in separate categories instead of using them in the garden plan?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a question for a class project, such as how to save water at school. Write three evidence notes from three possible sources, sort them into two labeled categories, and star the source you would trust most. Tell why you trust that source.

EVIDENCE NOTE	CATEGORY	SOURCE	WHY I TRUST IT

ANSWER KEY

Source Sorting Squad

GRADE 3 · 3.R.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each source and underline its claim. Write P, F, or G beside each claim for Plants Monarchs Need, Flower Ideas to Check, or Garden Color, then put a star beside the source the class found most reliable. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What source gave evidence for the category "Plants Monarchs Need"? What did that source say?	**The state park website said that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves.**
2	How did putting the claims into categories help the class?	**It helped the class compare the claims instead of mixing them together.**
3	Which source did Ms. Rivera say was most reliable? Give two details from the passage that explain why.	**The state park website. It was written by butterfly scientists, and it named what caterpillars eat.**
4	Why did the class keep the blog claim and the neighbor's claim in separate categories instead of using them in the garden plan?	**The blog did not explain where its claim came from, and the neighbor's claim was only one person's observation. The class needed stronger evidence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How can we save water at school? Facts to use: *A City Water Department website says repairing leaks saves water. Ideas to check: A student poster says shorter handwashing uses less water; a hose ad says its new hose saves water. I star the city website because water workers wrote it.

Accept category labels that fit the student's evidence notes and clearly separate stronger evidence from ideas that need checking. The student should identify a source as most reliable and give a sensible reason based on who created it or where the information came from.