

Source Detective

Sort useful information from weak information.

4.R.1.C "Organize and synthesize information from the print and digital resources determining the relevance and reliability of the information gathered."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the information Jalen uses. Circle details that show why a source is reliable or unreliable, and number the three sources in the order they appear.

Jalen's Butterfly Research

- ① Jalen wanted to learn whether native flowers could help local butterflies. He found a library book, Backyard Butterflies, written by an entomologist, a scientist who studies insects. The book was published by a nature museum in 2022. It explained that caterpillars need certain host plants for food. Jalen wrote this fact on a note card because it answered his question about helping butterflies.
- ② Next, Jalen opened a website called Butterfly Fun Facts. The page said, "All butterflies drink only nectar." It did not name an author, list sources, or show a date. The statement seemed related to butterflies, but Jalen did not use it. He knew that a source can be on topic and still be unreliable when readers cannot check who made the claim or where it came from.
- ③ Finally, Jalen visited a state wildlife agency webpage updated in 2024. It listed native plants for his region and explained which ones feed caterpillars. The agency manages wildlife habitat, so its information fit his project and came from a group with knowledge of local animals. Jalen placed the museum-book fact and the agency facts under "Useful Sources." He left the fun-facts claim off his report.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Which source was related to Jalen's topic but was not reliable enough to use? Give two details from the passage that show why.

- 2 What makes the library book a reliable source for Jalen's project?

- 3 Why was the state wildlife agency webpage relevant to Jalen's question?

- 4 How did Jalen organize the information he decided to trust, and what did he do with the weak claim?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one question about a local animal or plant. Name two print or digital resources you would check. For each resource, tell what information it could give and why it seems reliable or what you would need to check. Mark the source you would use first.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the information Jalen uses. Circle details that show why a source is reliable or unreliable, and number the three sources in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source was related to Jalen's topic but was not reliable enough to use? Give two details from the passage that show why.	The Butterfly Fun Facts website. It did not name an author, list sources, or show a date.
2	What makes the library book a reliable source for Jalen's project?	It was written by an entomologist and published by a nature museum in 2022.
3	Why was the state wildlife agency webpage relevant to Jalen's question?	It listed native plants for his region and explained which plants feed caterpillars.
4	How did Jalen organize the information he decided to trust, and what did he do with the weak claim?	He put the museum-book fact and agency facts under "Useful Sources." He left the claim from Butterfly Fun Facts out of his report.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question: How can I help birds find water in summer? 1. Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website. It could explain safe ways to offer water. It seems reliable because the Cornell Lab is a research center that studies birds. 2. My city parks department webpage. It could tell which birds live near me. I would check its date and look for a named writer. I would use the Cornell website first.

Accept answers that use passage evidence to judge both relevance and reliability. In Part 3, accept different reasonable resources when the student explains why each source is useful and trustworthy, or identifies a detail that needs checking.