

Research Trail

Find, check, and credit information.

4.R.1 "Evaluation and Synthesis of Information Construct and formulate questions about a topic. Identify search terms to locate information on the topic and gather relevant information from various print and digital sources..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two research questions, circle the two details that show why sources are reliable, and box the information needed to give a source credit.

Planning a Monarch Search

- ① Ms. Chen's class wanted to learn whether monarch butterflies could use a school pollinator garden. First, they made questions: What plants do monarch caterpillars eat? When do monarchs visit our area? The class chose search terms such as "monarch caterpillar food" and "monarch migration map." Clear search terms helped them find information that matched their questions, instead of pages about other kinds of butterflies.
- ② Next, students gathered facts from a printed book at the library and a website from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The book explained that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed. The agency website showed a migration map and gave the date it was updated. Students decided these sources were reliable because the book named its author and publisher, and the government website came from a science agency.
- ③ In their notes, the class wrote the important idea, "Milkweed supports monarch caterpillars," followed by a short summary in their own words. Beside each note, they listed the source title, author or group, and page or web address. For their display, students used a map and two facts. They did not copy sentences from sources or use a photo without naming where it came from.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which search term would help answer the question about what monarch caterpillars eat?

2 What two sources did the class use to gather information?

3 What details helped students decide that their sources were reliable?

4 What information did students list beside each note to give credit to a source?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a topic you want to research. Write one research question, two search terms, and one note in your own words. Then name one reliable source you would use and list its title, author or group, and web address or page number.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two research questions, circle the two details that show why sources are reliable, and box the information needed to give a source credit. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which search term would help answer the question about what monarch caterpillars eat?	"monarch caterpillar food"
2	What two sources did the class use to gather information?	A printed library book and a website from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
3	What details helped students decide that their sources were reliable?	The book named its author and publisher, and the website came from a government science agency.
4	What information did students list beside each note to give credit to a source?	The source title, author or group, and page number or web address.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Topic: Cheetah speed. Question: How fast can a cheetah run? Search terms: cheetah speed, cheetah running. Note: Cheetahs can run up to about 70 miles per hour for short distances. Reliable source: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, "Cheetah," <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/cheetah>.

Accept reasonable research questions and search terms that match the chosen topic. The note should be in the student's own words and should include a complete source credit with a title, author or group, and a page number or web address.