

Research Trail

Follow one student's path from question to credited notes.

4.R "The student will conduct research and read a series of conceptually related texts on selected topics to build knowledge on grade-four content and texts, solve problems, and support cross-curricular learning..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's research question and search terms. Circle the details in her source tags that give credit, and write 1 and 2 beside the two sources she used.

Maya Studies Beaver Ponds

- ① To learn how beavers change wetlands, Maya began with a question: How does a beaver dam affect nearby animals? She chose search terms that matched her question, including beaver dam, wetland habitat, and animals near ponds. A broad search for "beavers" gave too many results. Specific words helped her find information that fit her topic.
- ② Next, Maya used two sources. In a library book written by a wildlife scientist, she learned that dams can slow water and form ponds. On a National Park Service web page, she read that beaver ponds can provide habitat for fish, frogs, and water birds. She trusted these sources because the author and organization had knowledge about wildlife.
- ③ After each note, Maya wrote a source tag. For the dam fact, she wrote the book author's name, the title, and the page number. For the animal fact, she wrote National Park Service, the web page title, and its web address. Source tags give credit and help readers check where an idea came from originally.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What research question did Maya use to guide her work?

2 Which search term was too broad, and what happened when Maya used it?

3 Choose one of Maya's sources. What made that source reliable?

4 What three details did Maya include in the source tag for the animal fact?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a local nature topic, such as rain gardens or migrating birds. Write one research question, three search terms, and one note in your own words. Add a source tag that includes an author or organization, a title, and a page number or web address.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's research question and search terms. Circle the details in her source tags that give credit, and write 1 and 2 beside the two sources she used. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What research question did Maya use to guide her work?	How does a beaver dam affect nearby animals?
2	Which search term was too broad, and what happened when Maya used it?	"Beavers" was too broad, and it gave her too many results.
3	Choose one of Maya's sources. What made that source reliable?	The library book was written by a wildlife scientist, or the National Park Service web page came from an organization with wildlife knowledge.
4	What three details did Maya include in the source tag for the animal fact?	National Park Service, the web page title, and its web address.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How do rain gardens help reduce runoff? Search terms: rain gardens, stormwater runoff, rain garden soil.

Note: Rain gardens catch rainwater and let it soak into the ground, reducing runoff. Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Soak Up the Rain: Rain Gardens," <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-gardens>.

Accept equivalent wording for the short answers when it matches the passage. For the open task, accept a focused question, three related search terms, an original paraphrased note, and a source tag with all requested parts.