Narrow the Trail

Use research details to sharpen a question.

5.R.1.A "Formulate questions that help narrow the topic and revise questions as needed based on research."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each research question Maya asks. Number the questions 1, 2, and 3 to track how research helps her narrow her topic.

Maya Follows the Monarchs

1. When Maya chose monarch butterflies for her class report, her first question was, "What do monarchs eat?" A field guide answered it quickly: caterpillars eat milkweed leaves, while adult monarchs drink nectar from many flowers. Maya saw that her question was too small for a full report. She wanted to learn how the butterflies survive a long journey, not only what they eat.

2. Next, Maya read a map from a butterfly research group and an article from a national park. She learned that many eastern monarchs travel from Canada and the United States to mountain forests in central Mexico. Her new question became, "Which places do eastern monarchs use during migration?" This question could guide her to maps, weather records, and descriptions of resting sites along the route.

3. Later, Maya found reports explaining that illegal logging can damage the oyamel fir forests where eastern monarchs spend winter. She also found that severe winter storms can kill many butterflies. Because her sources pointed to two dangers in one location, she revised again: "How do logging and winter storms affect monarchs in central Mexico?" Her revised question was focused enough to help her choose facts for one section of her report.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What was Maya's first question, and why did she decide to change it?

2. What research helped Maya form her second question?

3. How did Maya change her question from the first question to the second question?

4. Why is Maya's last question more focused than her second question?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic you could research, such as a local animal, a sport, or an invention. Write an initial question, list two facts from reliable sources, and write a revised, narrower question that the facts lead you to ask.

ANSWER KEY

Narrow the Trail

GRADE 5 · 5.R.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each research question Maya asks. Number the questions 1, 2, and 3 to track how research helps her narrow her topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was Maya's first question, and why did she decide to change it?	**Her first question was "What do monarchs eat?" She changed it because it was too small for a full report about their long journey.**
2	What research helped Maya form her second question?	**A map from a butterfly research group and an article from a national park showed her that eastern monarchs travel to central Mexico.**
3	How did Maya change her question from the first question to the second question?	**She changed from asking about monarchs' food to asking which places eastern monarchs use during migration.**
4	Why is Maya's last question more focused than her second question?	**It names two dangers, logging and winter storms, and one specific place, central Mexico.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Topic: peregrine falcons. Initial question: How do peregrine falcons live? Source notes: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology explains that peregrines catch birds in flight. The National Park Service explains that they can nest on cliffs and tall buildings. Revised question: How do tall city buildings serve as nesting places for peregrine falcons?

Accept equivalent answers that explain how each new source detail made Maya's question more specific. For the open task, accept varied topics if the response includes two relevant source-based facts and a revised question that is narrower than the initial question.