

Source Detective

Check which sources best support a research question.

5.R.1.C "Organize and synthesize information from the print and digital resources, evaluating their relevance, reliability, and credibility."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show why a source is relevant or trustworthy. Circle the detail that makes one source hard to trust.

Maya Checks Her Sources

- ① For a class poster about monarch butterflies, Maya began with a print field guide from the library. It was published by a museum in 2022 and listed its authors, a biologist and an illustrator. The guide explained that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed. Maya wrote that fact on a note card because it fit her topic and came from named experts.
- ② Next, Maya found a web page from a university insect lab. The page showed the date it was updated and linked to a study about monarch migration. She also found a post on a travel blog that said all orange butterflies migrate to Mexico. The post named no writer and gave no sources for its claim.
- ③ To organize her research, Maya made a chart with columns for each source, its evidence, and her decision. She kept the milkweed fact and used the university page for migration details. She left out the travel-blog statement. Its broad claim did not match her exact question, and she could not check who wrote it or where the information came from.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What details make the print field guide a credible source for Maya's poster?

2 Which digital source is the better choice for migration details? Give two details that support your choice.

3 Why did Maya leave out the travel-blog statement?

4 What three kinds of information did Maya put in her research chart?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose an animal question you want to research. Make a two-row source chart using one print source and one digital source. For each source, include its title and creator or organization, one relevant fact, and your decision about whether to use it. Then write one sentence explaining how the two sources work together.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show why a source is relevant or trustworthy. Circle the detail that makes one source hard to trust. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details make the print field guide a credible source for Maya's poster?	It was published by a museum in 2022 and named its authors, including a biologist.
2	Which digital source is the better choice for migration details? Give two details that support your choice.	The university insect lab page. It showed an update date and linked to a study about monarch migration.
3	Why did Maya leave out the travel-blog statement?	The claim was too broad for her question, and the post gave no writer or sources to check.
4	What three kinds of information did Maya put in her research chart?	Each source, its evidence, and her decision about using it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: Why can bald eagle nests become so large? Print source: National Geographic Readers: Eagles by Laura Marsh reports that bald eagles return to the same nest and add sticks. I would use it because it has a named author and answers my question. Digital source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "All About Birds: Bald Eagle," states that nests can be up to 9 feet across. I would use it because it comes from an ornithology lab. Together, the sources explain why nests can grow very large.

Accept answers that identify relevant evidence and make a reasonable judgment about a source's trustworthiness. For Part 3, accept different topics and sources when the student includes both source types, relevant facts, source checks, and a synthesis sentence.