Research Like a Reporter

Use questions, sources, notes, and citations to build trustworthy research.

5.R.1 "Evaluation and Synthesis of Information 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 Circle the three search terms Maya chose. Underline details she used to judge whether sources were credible, and put a star beside two actions that helped her avoid plagiarism or give credit.

Maya's Monarch Research

1. Maya wanted to learn whether planting native flowers could help monarch butterflies in her town. Her first question, "How do butterflies live?" was too broad. After reading a park brochure, she revised it to: "Which native flowers provide nectar for monarchs in Oakville during spring?" She chose search terms such as "Oakville native flowers," "monarch nectar plants," and "spring bloom dates."

2. At the library, Maya used a field guide published by the state university. On a conservation group's website, she found a list of local plants. She checked the author, date, and evidence on each source. The field guide named its scientists and publication date. The website linked to plant records from the county. Both sources matched her spring question, so Maya decided they were relevant and credible.

3. In her notes, Maya wrote only useful facts in her own words: "Bee balm and asters offer nectar to monarchs." She did not copy whole sentences from either source. Next to each note, she recorded the title, author or group, date, and link or publisher. For her poster, she grouped flowers by bloom time and added a source list. She put quotation marks around any exact words she used.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Maya revise her first research question?

2. What three search terms did Maya choose?

3. What details helped Maya decide that her two sources were credible? Name two.

4. How did Maya avoid plagiarism and give credit in her notes and poster?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic you could research. Write a narrow research question, three search terms, two sources you would check, and one note in your own words with citation details for the source. State one check you would use to decide whether a source is credible and relevant.

ANSWER KEY

Research Like a Reporter

GRADE 5 · 5.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the three search terms Maya chose. Underline details she used to judge whether sources were credible, and put a star beside two actions that helped her avoid plagiarism or give credit. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Maya revise her first research question?	**Her first question was too broad. She revised it to focus on native flowers that provide nectar for monarchs in Oakville during spring.**
2	What three search terms did Maya choose?	**"Oakville native flowers," "monarch nectar plants," and "spring bloom dates."**
3	What details helped Maya decide that her two sources were credible? Name two.	**The field guide named its scientists and gave a publication date. The website linked to county plant records. Maya also checked the author, date, and evidence.**
4	How did Maya avoid plagiarism and give credit in her notes and poster?	**She wrote facts in her own words, recorded source details, added a source list, and used quotation marks for exact words.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How does the Moon's shape appear to change during one month? Search terms: Moon phases, lunar cycle, Moon phase diagram; sources: NASA Space Place webpage "What Are the Moon's Phases?" and a school library science encyclopedia; check: I would check the author or organization, date, and whether the source explains Moon phases. Note: The Moon seems to change shape because we see different amounts of its sunlit half, not because the Moon changes shape (NASA Space Place, "What Are the Moon's Phases?", NASA, accessed August 15, 2026).

Accept answers that identify the passage details about narrowing questions, choosing search terms, checking source evidence, taking notes, and citing sources. For the open task, accept different topics when the question is narrow, the search terms fit, sources are named, the note is paraphrased, and citation details are included.