

Questions Before Choices

Use questions and evidence to study a community decision.

S.3.c “developing questions, demonstrating curiosity, and engaging in critical thinking and analysis;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each question Maya asks. Underline each fact or observation she uses to investigate the playground decision.

A Playground Decision

- ① At a town meeting, third grader Maya heard that the old playground might be replaced with a parking lot. Some adults said more parking would help shoppers. Others said children needed a safe place to play. Maya did not choose a side right away. She wanted to learn why the town needed more spaces and who used the playground each day.
- ② First, Maya watched the playground after school for three days. She counted 18 children there on Monday, 21 on Tuesday, and 19 on Wednesday. She also noticed that a nearby lot had empty spaces. Maya wrote two questions in her notebook: “How many empty spaces are there at busy times?” and “Could the town repair the playground instead?”
- ③ Next, Maya talked with a shop owner and a parent who visited the park. The shop owner said Saturday parking was often full. The parent said the playground was crowded on weekends. Maya understood that both people had useful information, but each person saw only part of the problem. She planned to ask the town council for parking counts and playground use records before sharing her opinion.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which question did Maya write that could help her learn more about the need for parking?

2 What observation could make Maya question whether more parking was needed?

3 Why did Maya think the shop owner and the parent each saw only part of the problem?

4 What two kinds of records did Maya plan to ask the town council for? How could they help her?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A community center must choose between adding a basketball court or more garden beds. Write two questions the center should ask before deciding. Then name one kind of information it should collect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each question Maya asks. Underline each fact or observation she uses to investigate the playground decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which question did Maya write that could help her learn more about the need for parking?	"How many empty spaces are there at busy times?"
2	What observation could make Maya question whether more parking was needed?	She noticed that a nearby lot had empty spaces.
3	Why did Maya think the shop owner and the parent each saw only part of the problem?	They had useful information from their own experiences, but the shop owner focused on parking and the parent focused on the playground.
4	What two kinds of records did Maya plan to ask the town council for? How could they help her?	She planned to ask for parking counts and playground use records. They could show how much parking and playground space people actually use.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How many people use the basketball court now? How many families want garden beds? The center could survey residents to learn which choice more people would use.

Accept questions that would help compare the two choices, such as questions about users, cost, space, or community needs. Accept a reasonable information source, such as a survey, a count of users, or cost information.