

Clues at Cahokia

Use evidence to ask stronger questions about the past.

S.VS.c "developing questions, enhancing curiosity, and engaging in critical thinking and analysis;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that are evidence, and circle questions or unknowns. These marks help you tell what researchers know and what they still need to investigate.

A City of Clues

- ① About 1,000 years ago, a large city stood near the Mississippi River in what is now Illinois. It is called Cahokia. Many people built homes there and raised corn. They also made a huge earthen mound, now called Monks Mound. Archaeologists study objects and soil to learn how people lived in this busy community long ago.
- ② Archaeologists have found pottery, tools, and pieces of food plants at Cahokia. These finds show that residents cooked, worked, and farmed. Yet evidence does not answer every question. Why did people choose this location? How did leaders organize workers to build the mound? A careful researcher separates what an object shows from what it only suggests.
- ③ Researchers compare clues from many places. They can test soil for crop remains and examine where buildings once stood. They can also read reports from earlier digs, but they must ask whether those reports used careful methods. New evidence may change an idea. Good questions help researchers find evidence instead of guessing about Cahokia today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What fact from paragraph 1 could lead a researcher to ask why Cahokia needed many workers?

- 2 Write one question from paragraph 2 that the evidence has not answered.

- 3 How do the pottery, tools, and food plants help archaeologists make an idea about daily life at Cahokia?

- 4 Why should researchers ask whether reports from earlier digs used careful methods?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one fact from the passage. Write two research questions that the fact makes you wonder about, then name one kind of evidence that could help answer one question.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that are evidence, and circle questions or unknowns. These marks help you tell what researchers know and what they still need to investigate. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What fact from paragraph 1 could lead a researcher to ask why Cahokia needed many workers?	Cahokia had a huge earthen mound, Monks Mound, that people built.
2	Write one question from paragraph 2 that the evidence has not answered.	Why did people choose this location? OR How did leaders organize workers to build the mound?
3	How do the pottery, tools, and food plants help archaeologists make an idea about daily life at Cahokia?	The objects suggest that residents cooked, worked, and farmed.
4	Why should researchers ask whether reports from earlier digs used careful methods?	They need to know whether the reports are reliable evidence. Careful methods make the information more trustworthy.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fact: Many people at Cahokia raised corn. How much corn did farmers grow? Where did they store corn after harvest? Researchers could test soil near homes for crop remains and look for storage areas.

Accept two clear questions that grow from a passage fact and cannot be answered only by repeating that fact. Accept an appropriate evidence source, such as soil, objects, building remains, or carefully made excavation reports.