

Evidence Detectives

Use observations to make a careful science conclusion.

2.1.d.i “constructing and critiquing conclusions and explanations make simple conclusions based on data or observations”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the observations Mina made. Circle the conclusion that the observations support.

Where Do Pill Bugs Gather?

- ① Mina placed four pill bugs in a tray with two sides. One side had moist soil under a paper cover. The other side had dry soil under a lamp. She waited quietly so the pill bugs could choose a side.
- ② After ten minutes, three pill bugs were on the moist, covered side. One was on the dry, bright side. Mina repeated the test two more times. Each time, most of the pill bugs gathered on the moist, covered side.
- ③ Mina concluded that pill bugs tend to choose places that are moist and darker. Her conclusion matches the repeated observations. She could not conclude that every pill bug always chooses that kind of place, because one pill bug chose the other side.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What simple conclusion did Mina make about the pill bugs?

2 Write two observations that support Mina's conclusion.

3 Why is the statement, "Every pill bug always chooses moist, dark places," too strong?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two observations from a safe test or something you have watched. Then write one careful conclusion that your observations support. Use a word such as *may* or *tend to*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the observations Mina made. Circle the conclusion that the observations support. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What simple conclusion did Mina make about the pill bugs?	Pill bugs tend to choose places that are moist and darker.
2	Write two observations that support Mina's conclusion.	Three pill bugs were on the moist, covered side after ten minutes. In all three tests, most pill bugs gathered on the moist, covered side.
3	Why is the statement, "Every pill bug always chooses moist, dark places," too strong?	One pill bug chose the dry, bright side, so not every pill bug chose the moist, covered side.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At recess, I saw five sparrows on the grass near crumbs. I saw one sparrow on the empty sidewalk. Sparrows may gather where there is food.

Accept conclusions that match the student's stated observations and use careful language rather than an absolute claim. Observations should describe what the student saw or measured, not explain why it happened.