

Pill Bug Proof

Use test results to separate evidence from opinions.

2.1.d.ii "constructing and critiquing conclusions and explanations distinguish between opinion and evidence"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the evidence, circle the opinion, and write 1 beside the conclusion so you can see how test results support an idea.

A Damp or Dry Choice?

- ① Maya wanted to know whether pill bugs liked damp places. She put ten pill bugs in a tray with a dry paper towel on one side and a damp paper towel on the other. After ten minutes, eight pill bugs were on the damp side.
- ② Maya concluded that pill bugs may prefer damp places. Her count of eight bugs on the damp side is evidence because it came from her test. "Damp towels are nicer than dry towels" is an opinion. It tells what someone thinks.
- ③ One test is not enough to prove what every pill bug likes. Maya could repeat the test with more pill bugs. If most pill bugs choose the damp side again, that evidence would support her conclusion. A conclusion should match the evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sentence in the passage is an opinion?

2 What evidence supports Maya's conclusion?

3 Does Maya's test prove what every pill bug likes? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Make up a test about what an animal may prefer. Write one sentence that gives evidence you could collect and one sentence with a conclusion that matches the evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the evidence, circle the opinion, and write 1 beside the conclusion so you can see how test results support an idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in the passage is an opinion?	"Damp towels are nicer than dry towels" is an opinion.
2	What evidence supports Maya's conclusion?	After ten minutes, eight pill bugs were on the damp side.
3	Does Maya's test prove what every pill bug likes? Explain.	No. One test is not enough to prove what every pill bug likes.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I put equal amounts of two bird foods in two trays, and six birds ate from one tray while two ate from the other. I conclude that the birds I watched may prefer the food in the first tray.

Accept any sensible animal test with a specific observation or count as evidence and a cautious conclusion that matches it. The conclusion should use words such as may or might, rather than claiming the result proves what all animals prefer.