

Source Sleuths

Use evidence to judge whether science information is reliable.

3.1.f.i "obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information read and comprehend reading-level appropriate texts and/or other reliable media"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each detail that helps Maya judge whether a source is reliable. Underline the claim she needs to check with another reliable source.

Maya Checks Sources

- ① When Maya wanted to learn why pill bugs curl into balls, she found two sources. One was a science book from the school library. It named its author, listed a publishing date, and explained that pill bugs curl up to protect their soft undersides. The book also said pill bugs are crustaceans, related to crabs and shrimp.
- ② The other source was a video posted by a person called BugFan22. The video showed a pill bug rolling up, but it gave no author's real name, date, or source for its facts. It claimed that pill bugs are insects and can live underwater forever. Maya noticed that this claim did not match the library book.
- ③ Maya decided the library book was the more reliable source. It gave information that could be checked, and its author and date were listed. She did not decide that the book was perfect. For a class report, Maya planned to compare its facts with another book or a trusted science website. Checking more than one reliable source can make information stronger.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What three details were missing from the video source?

2 What claim in the video did not match the library book? Tell what the book said instead.

3 Why did Maya decide that the library book was more reliable? Give two reasons from the passage.

4 What did Maya plan to do before using the book's facts in her class report? Why would this help?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a science question you want to investigate. Write three sentences: name one source you would use, tell two details you would check to decide if it is reliable, and explain how you would check a fact in a second reliable source.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each detail that helps Maya judge whether a source is reliable. Underline the claim she needs to check with another reliable source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three details were missing from the video source?	The video did not give the author's real name, a date, or a source for its facts.
2	What claim in the video did not match the library book? Tell what the book said instead.	The video claimed pill bugs are insects. The library book said pill bugs are crustaceans, related to crabs and shrimp.
3	Why did Maya decide that the library book was more reliable? Give two reasons from the passage.	The book listed an author and a publishing date. It also gave information that could be checked.
4	What did Maya plan to do before using the book's facts in her class report? Why would this help?	She planned to compare the facts with another book or a trusted science website. Checking more than one reliable source can make information stronger.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I want to learn why some trees lose leaves in fall. I would use a book from the school library and check for an author's name and publishing date. I would compare its explanation with a trusted science website before I use the fact in my report.

Accept equivalent descriptions of reliability clues, including a named author, a date, facts supported by sources, and information that can be checked. For Your Turn, accept a reasonable science question and source plan that includes two reliability checks and comparison with a second reliable source.