

Short Research Projects with Multiple Sources

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

Good Grade 5 research starts with a FOCUSED QUESTION (not too broad, not too narrow), uses MULTIPLE CREDIBLE SOURCES (not just one), and stays on the question. A topic like 'animals' is too broad. A question with a clear yes/no fact answer is too narrow.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Three research situations

SITUATION A - Aiden has been assigned a one-week research project about 'the ocean.' He needs to NARROW the topic into a focused research question.

SITUATION B - Priya is researching how city parks affect kids' health. She has gathered five possible sources and must decide which ones are CREDIBLE.

SITUATION C - Lucas has a research question (How do honeybee colonies survive winter?) and is taking notes from three sources. He must keep his notes ON the question.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Read each research situation and choose the BEST option.

- Which research question is BEST for Aiden's one-week project?
 - How does plastic pollution affect sea turtles in the Atlantic Ocean?
 - What is the ocean?
 - Is the Pacific Ocean larger than the Atlantic Ocean?
 - Everything about the ocean.
- Aiden also considered the question *Is the ocean important?* Why is this NOT a good research question?
 - The question is too long for a one-week project.
 - The question uses a verb that sounds too informal.
 - The question does not include any people.
 - The question is too broad and the answer is obvious - there is no real research to do.



3. Priya is comparing five sources. Which is the MOST CREDIBLE for her topic on city parks and kids' health?
- A. A short comment on a social media post that says parks are the best.
 - B. A 2023 report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control on physical activity in urban children.
 - C. A blog post titled My Top 10 Favorite Parks! by an anonymous user.
 - D. An advertisement for a swing-set company that says playgrounds make kids healthy.
4. Priya found two sources that AGREE that city parks improve kids' health. Why is using BOTH still a good idea?
- A. Two sources will make her paper exactly twice as long.
 - B. Two sources are required by law for any school project.
 - C. Using two independent credible sources STRENGTHENS the evidence and lets her cross-check facts.
 - D. Two sources say the same thing, so she only needs to read one.
5. Lucas's research question is: *How do honeybee colonies survive winter?* Which note from a source is OFF TOPIC?
- A. A queen honeybee can lay up to 1,500 eggs in a single day during peak summer.
 - B. Bees cluster tightly around the queen and shiver their flight muscles to warm the center of the hive.
 - C. Worker bees seal small cracks in the hive with a sticky substance called propolis to keep cold drafts out.
 - D. Beekeepers in cold regions sometimes wrap hives in insulating fabric to help colonies survive.
6. Lucas also wrote down: *Honey is delicious on toast.* What should he do with this note?
- A. Keep it because it's a fact about honey.
 - B. Use it as the topic sentence of his report.
 - C. Add three more sentences about toast to make the note longer.
 - D. Move it to a different paper because it doesn't help answer his research question.
7. Priya is choosing between two sources on parks and kids' health. Source 1 is a peer-reviewed 2024 article in a children's-health journal. Source 2 is a 1998 magazine article. Which is BEST?
- A. Source 2, because older sources are always more trusted.
 - B. Whichever source has more pictures.
 - C. Source 1, because it is recent AND peer-reviewed in a topic-specific journal.
 - D. Neither - only books can be used for research.



8. Aiden narrows his ocean topic to: *How does plastic pollution affect sea turtles in the Atlantic Ocean?* Which is the BEST first STEP after writing the question?

- A. Sit down and write the whole report from memory before reading anything.
- B. Look up two or three credible sources and skim them for what they cover.
- C. Pick a totally different topic just in case this one doesn't work out.
- D. Wait until the night before the project is due to start.

9. Aiden wants help narrowing the topic 'sports.' Write ONE FOCUSED RESEARCH QUESTION he could use for a one-week project.

10. Name TWO different KINDS of credible sources Aiden could use to research his question, and explain in ONE sentence why EACH is credible.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D


- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9
- 10

Explanations

1. A	A is FOCUSED (one effect, one species, one ocean) and OPEN (it requires research, not a single fact). B is too broad. C is too narrow - one fact answers it. D is not a question, just a topic.
2. D	D names the real issue: 'Is the ocean important?' is so broad that the answer (yes) is obvious without any research. A is wrong (it's short). B is irrelevant. C is irrelevant - research questions don't need people.
3. B	B is from a known expert agency (CDC), recent, and specifically about her topic - the most credible. A is unsourced opinion. C is anonymous opinion. D is an ad with a sales motive.
4. C	C names the real reason: independent sources that AGREE confirm a finding and let the writer cross-check facts. A confuses sources with length. B is false. D misses the point of multiple sources.
5. A	A is a true fact about queens, but it is about SUMMER egg-laying, not winter survival - off the research question. B, C, and D each describe a winter-survival mechanism.
6. D	Notes have to serve the research question. A note about honey on toast doesn't help explain how colonies survive winter, so Lucas should set it aside. A keeps off-topic material. B makes the off-topic note central. C makes the problem worse.
7. C	C names two real credibility markers: RECENT and PEER-REVIEWED in a TOPIC-SPECIFIC journal. A is false (older isn't automatically better). B is irrelevant. D is false - articles can be excellent sources.
8. B	B is the real next step: gather a few credible sources and skim them to plan. A skips research entirely. C abandons the work. D is a planning failure.
9.	Answer: Examples: (1) How does playing soccer affect the bone strength of fifth graders? (2) Why have so many youth basketball leagues moved practices to the morning? (3) How do new helmet designs help reduce concussions in youth football? Accept any QUESTION that (a) is open (not yes/no with one factual answer), (b) is narrowed to a specific sport, group, or angle, and (c) requires research to answer. NOT acceptable: 'What is sports?', 'Are sports good?', or just a topic phrase like 'basketball.'
10.	Answer: Examples: (1) A government health agency website (e.g., CDC) - credible because it is written by experts and updated regularly. (2) A science magazine for kids (e.g., Science News for Students) - credible because it is reviewed by editors and cites studies. (3) A peer-reviewed journal article - credible because experts in the field check it before it is published. (4) A nonprofit organization devoted to the topic (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics) - credible because it publishes positions reviewed by doctors. Accept any TWO DIFFERENT KINDS of sources (not just two of the same kind) with a one-sentence credibility reason for each. NOT acceptable: two random websites with no credibility reason, or two sources of the same exact kind.



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