Short Research Projects

Grade 4 Writing Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read each note. Circle why the note is weak.

1. Research question: Why do tides rise and fall? Pia's note says, "The beach is where many families vacation." Why is this note weak?

   It is true, but it does not answer the question.

   It was copied word for word from a very old book.

   It uses too many hard science words for a note.

   It is an opinion about the beach and the families there.

2. Research question: How do owls hunt at night? Sam's note says, "Owls are awesome birds." Why is this note weak?

   It is an opinion, not a fact that answers the question.

   It is a fact, but it names no source for the reader.

   It answers a different question about owl eggs.

   It gives far too many details about owl feathers and wings.

3. Research question: How do dolphins find food? Ria's note says, "Dolphins use clicks that bounce back from fish." She did not write where she found it. Why is this note weak?

   It has too many facts about fish and not enough about dolphins.

   A reader cannot tell where the fact came from.

   It does not answer the question about how dolphins find food.

   It is an opinion about dolphins instead of a fact.

4. Research question: How do earthworms help soil? Gus's note is a whole paragraph copied from a book. Why is this note weak?

   It has facts that are not true about earthworms.

   It is written as a question instead of a short note.

   It is not short and not in his own words.

   It gives only his opinion about earthworms.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Writing Worksheet

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