Short Research Projects

Grade 4 Writing Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Read each note. Circle why the note is weak.

1. Research question: How do bats find their way in the dark? Kim's note says, "Bats are cool." Why is this note weak?

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

   It gives too many facts about how bats fly.

   It names a source that is too old to trust.

2. Research question: How do ants find food? Lee's note says, "Ants live in nests under the ground." Why is this note weak?

   It is far too long to fit on a small note card at all.

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

   It is an opinion about ants instead of a fact.

3. Research question: Why do leaves change color in fall? Ben's note says, "Some trees grow very tall." Why is this note weak?

   It is too long and has too many words to fit on a note card.

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

   It is an opinion instead of a fact.

4. Research question: How do whales stay warm? Jo's note says, "Whales are the best animals." Why is this note weak?

   It gives too many facts about whale food and whale songs.

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Writing Worksheet - Building Confidence

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