

Grade 4 / Constructed Response Student Samples

➔ INFORMATIONAL PERFORMANCE TASK

Item Prompt ITEM #2644	Source #1 discusses what some animals do to survive in their environment. Explain how the information in Source #2 adds to the reader’s understanding of what some animals do to survive in their environment. Give two details from Source #2 to support your explanation.
Claim, Target, and Standards	Smarter Balanced Claim and Target: Claim 4: Research, Target 2. INTERPRET & INTEGRATE INFORMATION: Distinguish relevant/irrelevant information. Focus Standards for Target 2: RI-1, RI-6,RI-7,RI-9; W-8, W-9 DOK: 3
Key Elements	Source # 2 (Animal Architects) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homes protect us from weather and keep us safe and comfortable. Animals are no exception.• The entrance to the lodge is always at the bottom, underwater, so beavers can come and go without being seen by predators.• Water builds up behind the dams, creating flooded areas that are ideal places for beavers to find food. The flooded areas also provide pools for other wildlife.• Besides living areas, these termite mounds have food storage areas, nurseries for “baby” termites, a special chamber for the king and queen, and even gardens.• Inside wombat burrows, sleeping nests are built on raised “platforms” to keep them dry in case of flooding.• Eagles line their nests with grasses and other soft material to make them comfy.



Response is an evidence-based explanation that provides two pieces of evidence from the specified source that support this idea and that explain how each detail supports the idea.

SAMPLE RESPONSE

Animals survive by building struchers to keep them from starving. In source #2 it clearly says. “Water builds up behind the dams they biuld, creating flooded areas that are ideal places for beavers to get food.”

A second thing that help animals survive is for exsample a beaver build dams to keep out preditors. “The entrance to the dam is always at the bottom, underwater so beavers can come and go without being seen by predators.” I got this evidance from sorce #2.

RATIONALE

This response satisfies the minimum requirements for a score of 2. The student provides two pieces of evidence from the key elements of Source #2 and explains how each piece of evidence adds to the reader’s understanding of how animals survive—through building structures to get food and to keep out predators.



Response is an evidence-based explanation that provides two pieces of evidence from the specified source that support this idea but doesn't explain how each detail supports the idea.

OR

Response is an evidence-based explanation that provides only one piece of evidence from the specified source that supports this idea and that explains how that detail supports the idea.

SAMPLE RESPONSE

Source #2 and #1 adds to the reader's understanding to what some animals do to survive in their environment because they gives details. For example, on pages 7-10 in source two it states "beavers build lodges along the banks of lakes and ponds. Using branches they chewed apart themselves, beavers begin by building a cone-shaped frame. Then they fill in the gaps with mud and leaves. The entrance to the lodge is always at the bottom, underwater, so beavers can come and go without being seen by predators." Also, near the end of the paragraph it says "wombats dig huge underground burrows that can be 100 feet long. Wombat tunnels are elaborate, with many entrances, tunnels and resting chambers. Inside the burrow, sleeping nests are built on raised "platforms" to keep them dry in case of flooding."

RATIONALE

This answer demonstrates a partial response to the question. The student provides two pieces of evidence from Source #2 that support what animals do to survive in their environment, but the student does not include explanations as to how these pieces of evidence support a reader's understanding of this idea.



Response is an explanation that is incorrect, irrelevant, insufficient, or blank.

SAMPLE RESPONSE

for source 1 I found that in the text it says reply on nature to help animals/plants to survive. Also, animals build there structures I know because in the text it says that thats what they do to survive.

RATIONALE

This response incorrectly references Source #1 instead of Source #2; the response is not relevant to the prompt; and the attempts at citing evidence are insufficient.

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→ INFORMATIONAL PERFORMANCE TASK

Item Prompt ITEM #2655	Which source would most likely be the most helpful in understanding how plants and animals work and live together to allow the place where they live to continue to grow? Explain why this source is most likely the most helpful. Use two details from the source to support your explanation.
Claim, Target, and Standards	Smarter Balanced Claim and Target: Claim 4: Research Target 3. ANALYZE INFORMATION/SOURCES: Distinguish relevant/irrelevant information. Focus Standards for Target 4: RI-7, W-8 , W-9 DOK: 4
Key Elements	Source #3 (Don't Step in that Ecosystem!) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any place where plants, animals and other nonliving things (air, water, soil) live and interact together is an ecosystem. All living things are connected to each other in an ecosystem.• Picture an oak tree in the forest. Bugs and birds make cozy homes in its bark and branches. Squirrels nest in its trunk.• An oak tree grows acorns that mice and deer eat. A hawk comes down from the oak tree to eat the mouse.• Some of the acorns will get covered in dirt, get watered from the rain, and grow another oak tree.• A coral reef is home to many plants and animals.• Fish come to eat or hide in sea plants.• Coral reefs are home to one-quarter of all the fish in the sea. Reefs also attract birds, whales, turtles, and seals.• This makes the reef ecosystem one of the most important in the world.



Response is an evidence-based explanation that correctly identifies the most helpful source AND includes two details from that source that support this evaluation and that explain why each detail supports the idea that it is the most helpful source.

SAMPLE RESPONSE

Source #3 is most likely the most helpful in understanding how plants and animals work and live together to allow the place where they live to continue to grow because it says, “Any place where plants and animals live and interact [work together] with non living things (like air, water, and soil) is called an ecosystem.” One good example is that plants and animals work and live together in a pond. A pond gives homes to plants and tadpoles. The plants feed the tadpole and the tadpole provides carbon dioxide to the plants. Another example of plants and animals living and working together is that birds, squirrels, and bugs live in an oak tree. Without the oak tree, the birds, squirrels and mice would not have shelter or food. The final example is the coral reef. It gives homes to fish and attracts birds, and whales for food. In the end, all of the plants and animals live and depend on each other to survive and grow.

RATIONALE

The response correctly identifies the source that “is most likely the most helpful in understanding how plants and animals work and live together to allow the place where they live to continue to grow.” It cites key evidence from the source and then provides three details related to that evidence. For example, the writer discusses the pond, the oak tree, and the coral reef as places where animals and plants work together to live and grow. In demonstrating why Source #3 is the most helpful, the response also explains why each detail supports each idea. The student provides more evidence than is necessary, as only two pieces of evidence are necessary for the student to earn a 2.



Response is an evidence-based explanation that correctly identifies the most helpful source AND includes one detail from that source that supports this evaluation and that explains why the detail supports the idea that it is the most helpful source.

or

Response is an evidence-based explanation that correctly identifies the most helpful source AND includes two details from that source that support this evaluation but does not explain why each detail supports the idea that it is the most helpful source.

or

Response is an evidence-based explanation that does not identify a source or correctly identify the most helpful source but includes two details from the correct source and that explains why each detail supports the idea that it is the most helpful source.

SAMPLE RESPONSE

Source #3 and how I can prove it is “The plants & animals in an ecosystem need each other to survive. It is important that there is a balance among all thigs in an ecosystem. A small change in any part of an ecosystem can have a big effect. For example, if the food that an aniamls eats can no longer be found, then that amiamls die or leave that part of that ecosystem, then the rest of the living or nonliving parts of that ecosystem are effected because all of the parts of the ecosystem depends on each other.” This shows that plats and animals are connected in the ecosystem.

RATIONALE

This response names the correct source, provides one relevant detail from the text, and explains how the detail supports the idea that Source #3 is the most helpful source. This response earns 1 point.



Response is an explanation that is incorrect, irrelevant, insufficient, or blank.

SAMPLE RESPONSE

Source 1 is more helpful because it tells me more about plants and animals the animals it tells me about is owl, and crabs.

RATIONALE

This response earns 0 points. It is incorrect and insufficient. It does not correctly identify the correct source, nor does it provide an evidence-based explanation supported by two details.