NONFICTION | 4TH & 5TH GRADE | RI.4.8/5.8

REASONS & EVIDENCE
support points

LEXILE

TRUSTED BY OVER 2,000 TEACHERS

Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Model 4th

Read the following text. Answer the questions to demonstrate comprehension.

Raising Backyard Chickens

Raising chickens in one's backyard has emerged as a popular trend among urban and suburban communities seeking a sustainable lifestyle. Backyard chicken keeping offers a variety of benefits for individuals and communities alike. One compelling reason for raising backyard chickens is the assurance of a fresh and reliable source of eggs. Unlike store-bought eggs, backyard eggs are known for their superior taste, vibrant yolks, and higher nutritional value, as the hens have access to a varied diet and roam freely in a natural environment.

...promotes environmental sustainability and reduces the carbon ... chickens locally, individuals ...

...spaces into productive agricultural land, cities ... sense of community empowerment and self-sufficiency. Access to fresh, locally grown produce improves food access and nutrition, particularly in underserved neighborhoods known as food deserts. Additionally, urban farming initiatives create opportunities for job creation, skill development, and entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to the economic growth of urban areas.

Critics of urban farming may argue that the limited space and resources in urban environments pose significant challenges to its feasibility. However, advocates counter with examples of innovative urban farming techniques such as vertical farming, hydroponics, and rooftop gardens, which maximize space efficiency and resource utilization. Furthermore, studies have shown that urban agriculture can have positive environmental impacts, including reducing the urban heat island effect, improving air quality, and promoting biodiversity. With a growing body of evidence supporting its efficacy, urban farming is poised to play a pivotal role in building resilient and sustainable cities for the future.

...treat their animals appallingly."

...of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?

...s Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Eat Organic

...you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy. Think again. ...he food you eat? Unless you're eating organic food, chances are that your food is jam- ... chemicals.

...nic food is much healthier than conventional food. Did you know that your great-great- ...ts ate organically? In modern times, farming has changed. Conventional farming uses ...modified organisms, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Despite the changes in ...thods, our bodies have not changed. We are not built to consume harmful chemicals. ...d "organic" meets a standard. Organic food cannot be treated with pesticides, ... antibiotics, growth hormones, or other chemicals. Conventional animals that are farmed ...nption are raised on soy and corn, which is 90% GMO. Their food has hormones and ... Cows are given growth hormones. This makes them produce more milk. Hormones cause ...et infections. Infections need to be treated with antibiotics. All of these chemicals make ... into your food when you consume a cheeseburger or hot dog.

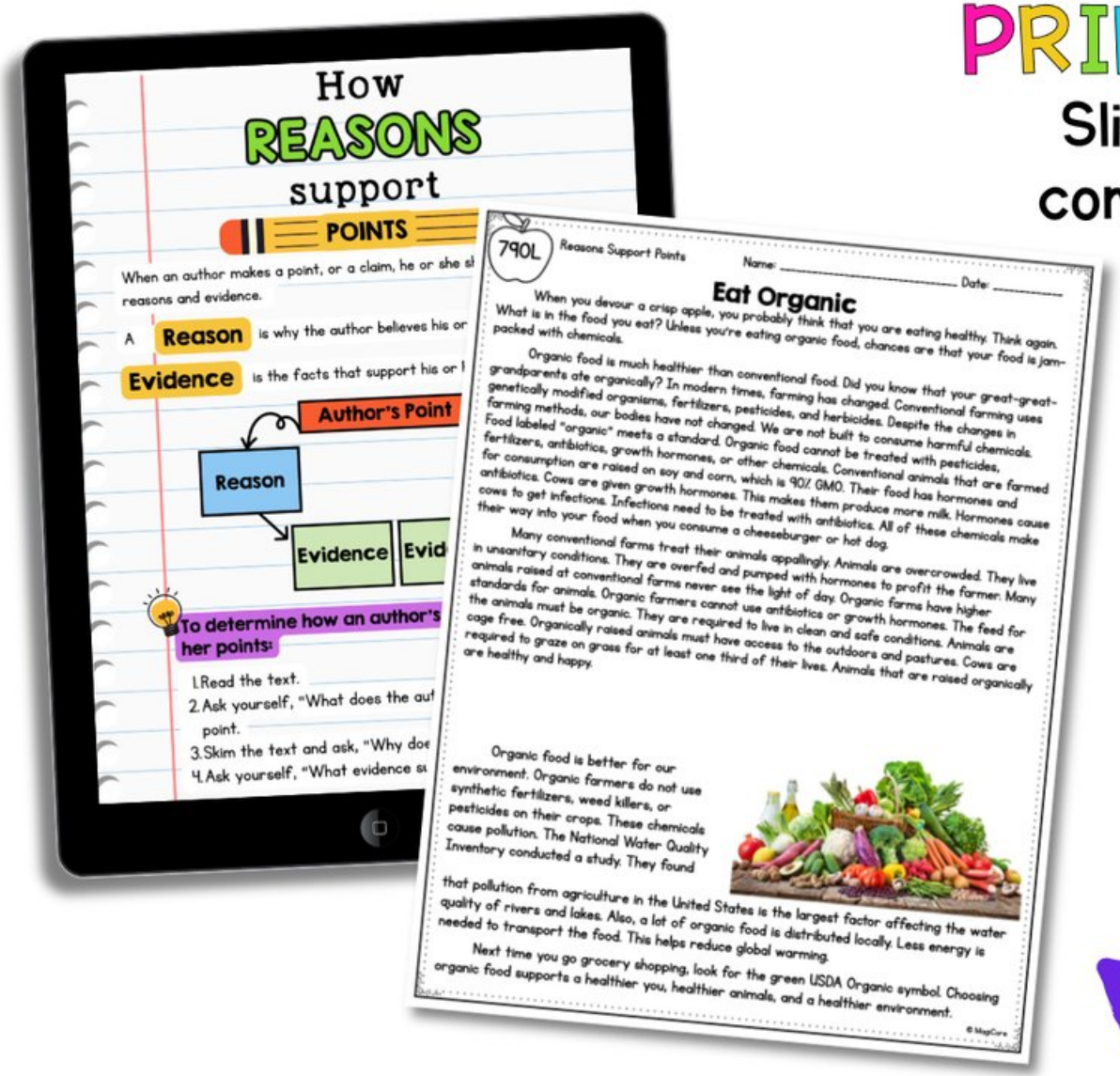
...ny conventional farms treat their animals appallingly. Animals are overcrowded. They live ...ary conditions. They are overfed and pumped with hormones to profit the farmer. Many ...aised at conventional farms never see the light of day. Organic farms have higher ...s for animals. Organic farmers cannot use antibiotics or growth hormones. The feed for ...als must be organic. They are required to live in clean and safe conditions. Animals are ...e. Organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors and pastures. Cows are ... to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives. Animals that are raised organically ...thy and happy.

How REASONS support



MagiCORE

WHAT'S INSIDE?



PRINTABLE PDFs and **DIGITAL** Google Slides covering the 4th and 5th grade text complexity band with Certified Lexile Levels.

- Anchor charts and question sets
- Color coding to encourage students to use text evidence
- AND two assessments on nonfiction reading passages

Printable and Google Slides Included

LEXILE®

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10 NONFICTION PASSAGES

860L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Say No to Plastic Bags

If you're still using plastic bags for shopping, think again. There are many reasons not to use plastic bags. Instead, we should use paper or reusable bags. Bags made out of cotton, for example, can be used over and over again. This is better for the planet because we don't throw them away after each use.

Plastic bags cause a lot of pollution. Plastic bags don't dissolve. Most plastic is made from a combination of petroleum and natural



790L Reasons Support Points Name: _____

The Great Milk Debate

It is important for kids to drink milk. Milk has calcium and vitamin D. This helps build your bones. The benefits of milk are undeniable. There is a great debate about the type of should consume. Many people are upset that schools are giving children instead of regular milk. Children are much more likely to opt for chocolate milk sugary taste.

ocolate milk still provides the same benefits of white milk, chocolat r. Chocolate milk can contain as much sugar as soda. Some school r breakfast and lunch. Would you drink soda for both breakfast a

ervings of chocolate milk will raise your sugar intake. Children sho ams of sugar each day. Two cups of chocolate milk contain forty hat's four times as much sugar as you should have each day!

r can cause health problems. Children that consume too much s lso increases hyperactivity. More seriously, excess sugar can cau someone is very overweight. Type 2 diabetes is another result o who develops diabetes cannot process sugar.

through the cafeteria line at school, think twice before you ch late milk a healthy choice?



810L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Are School Uniforms Best?

School uniforms are best for students and parents. Implementing uniform policies will improve academics, save parents money, and prepare students for the future.

Students are faced with many distractions at school. School uniform policies cut down on clothing distractions. Uniforms help students focus on their academics. If everyone looks similar, students will not be distracted by inappropriate clothing. Wearing uniforms helps



to worry about their clothes being judged. A at elementary school girls' language test scores niforms were required.

y. Many parents feel compelled to buy their chool uniforms, there is no longer this pressure. an new clothes. School uniforms can cost less

areers. Uniforms set a standard for how to niforms and dress codes. If students are will be more prepared for their future jobs



910L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Do You Really Need to Wear a Bicycle Helmet?

Do you roll your eyes and complain every time your mom reminds you to put on your helmet before taking your bike out for a ride? It seems so unnecessary to wear a bike helmet when you know that you're a good rider. After all, you're not planning to fall off your bike. Plus, if you're just riding your bike in the street in front of your house, do you really need to waste time putting on a helmet that looks so silly? The answer is absolutely! There are several good reasons as to why you need to wear a helmet, but let's focus on three.

The first and most important reason is that a helmet protects your brain if you do fall or have an accident. Nearly 90% of all cyclist brain injuries can be prevented by wearing this piece of equipment. If you tried to squeeze an egg between just your two index fingers, it wouldn't break because the pressure would be spread across the shell of the egg. This is what bike helmets do. They help divide the pressure evenly if you fall and hit your head so that the helmet breaks instead of your skull. Of course, this only works if your helmet is designed well and you wear it correctly. The helmet wraps around your head and needs to be fixed in place for it to keep your head and brain safe if you have an accident. Make sure that the helmet covers your forehead and that the straps are tight every time you wear it. This is the only way to make sure that the helmet will keep you safe.

The second reason for wearing a helmet is that accidents happen to even the best riders. It might even happen to you! Most people who have accidents while riding a bike injure their heads or faces in some way. By just wearing a helmet, you can keep yourself safer 50% of the time if you do fall. In 2015-2016, there were nearly half a million bicycle accidents in the United States of America. Nearly 1,000 people in these accidents died



because they injured their heads. Many of them weren't wearing bike helmets. Cyclists make up 2% of all road deaths. Not everyone who has an accident dies. Sometimes they injure their faces badly or they damage their brain which has an effect on them for the rest of their lives. The cost of treating these injuries is also high. This is why it's important to wear a helmet every time you ride your bike so that if you or you fall and hit your face or head, the injuries will definitely not be as bad as they without the helmet.

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910L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Do We Need Sleep?

Sleep is essential for our bodies to function. People are supposed to get between 7-8 hours of sleep every night. Sleep helps people be the best they can be both physically and mentally.

Most people do not get enough sleep at night. The average person gets between 4-6 hours nightly. This can cause a lot of issues.



People who are not sleeping enough are at a much greater risk of developing life-threatening diseases like heart and kidney disease. Sleep deprivation can also increase your risk of stroke and cause you to have high blood pressure. Sleeping for an adequate amount of time will help your body rest, repair, and stay healthy.

Weight gain is a common problem that results from lack of sleep. A lack of sleep can cause hormones and your metabolism to be thrown off balance, and it causes issues with processing food. People who get adequate sleep have been known to eat fewer calories. One study showed that with each hour of sleep lost, the odds of becoming obese went up.

Lack of sleep affects a person's mood. People who are deficient in sleep are less productive at work and in school. Sleep-deprived people can be irritable, forgetful, and even become depressed. A study done by the Mental Health Foundation found that people who didn't get enough sleep were four times as likely to suffer from lack of concentration and have relationship problems. They were also three times more likely to be depressed.

A shortage of sleep can also be unsafe. A lack of sleep causes a person's reaction time to be slower. This can cause car accidents. Some people may even fall asleep while doing daily tasks. This can be dangerous in certain situations, such as driving. According to the NHSA, falling asleep while driving causes about 100,000 crashes, 71,000 injuries, and 1,550 deaths each year in the United States.

Sufficient sleep is vital to a healthy body and mind. If you do not get the right amount of sleep, you will suffer physically and emotionally. Next time you are contemplating staying up an extra hour to catch up on your favorite television show, think about the benefits of sleep instead.

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900L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Save the Snakes

Many people are fearful of snakes. They are sneaky and slithery, and they look malicious. The fact of the matter is that snakes have just as much of a right to be here as humans. As we encroach on their habitats,



encounters with snakes are bound to happen. If you come across one of these slithery reptiles, leave the snake alone. Humans should not kill snakes.

Snakes are a large part of our ecosystem, and their survival affects many other living things. They help reduce the rodent and insect population, which helps make sure that our crops and homes are safe from pests. Snakes regularly shed their skins. Their skins are high in nutrients, so when the skins decompose, nutrients are returned to the soil.



Humans use snake venom in medicines and vaccines. A toxin from the saw-scaled viper's venom helped scientists develop the drug trofiban, which prevents blood from clotting. Snake venom is also necessary for the creation of antivenoms to treat people who are bitten by poisonous snakes. Snakes are important to the advancement of science and medicines, so killing snakes out of fear is unnecessary.

If you try to kill a snake, you could be in danger of being bitten. When snakes feel as though they are in danger, they will often attack. Snake bites are not only painful, but bites from a poisonous snake can be extremely harmful and cost you a hospital visit. If you come across a snake, it is best to leave it alone.

Snakes were here first. If you see a snake, don't kill it or hurt it. Leave it alone. Killing it can cause environmental problems or an injury, and population decreases can minimize scientific developments.

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- Learn in color! Visual cues reinforce text evidence
- Teachers can quickly check student work
- Variety of text structures to spark comprehension AND curiosity
- Dive into informational, scientific, and historical texts

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QUESTIONS

- Skill-focused, scaffolded questions
- Multiple choice and short answer
- Preps students for state testing
- Rigorous and research-based approach to questioning

790L

Reasons Support Points

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eat Organic

When you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy. Think again. What is in the food you eat? Unless you're eating organic food, chances are that your food is jam-packed with chemicals.

Organic food is much healthier than conventional food. Did you know that your great-great-grandparents ate organically? In modern times, farming has changed. Conventional farming uses genetically modified organisms, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Despite the changes in farming methods, our bodies have not changed. We are not built to consume harmful chemicals. Food labeled "organic" meets a standard. Organic food cannot be treated with pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics, growth hormones, or other chemicals. Conventional animals that are farmed for consumption are raised on soy and corn, which is 90% GMO. Their food has hormones and antibiotics. Cows are given growth hormones. This makes them produce more milk. Hormones cause cows to get infections. Infections need to be treated with antibiotics. All of these chemicals make their way into your food when you consume a cheeseburger or hot dog.

Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly. Animals are overcrowded. They live in unsanitary conditions. They are overfed and pumped with hormones to profit the farmer. Many animals raised at conventional farms never see the light of day. Organic farms have higher standards for animals. Organic farmers cannot use antibiotics or growth hormones. The feed for the animals must be organic. They are required to live in clean and safe conditions. Animals are cage free. Organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors and pastures. Cows are required to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives. Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy.



Organic food is better for our environment. Organic farmers do not use synthetic fertilizers, weed killers, or pesticides on their crops. These chemicals cause pollution. The National Water Quality Inventory conducted a study. They found that pollution from agriculture in the United States is the largest factor affecting the water quality of rivers and lakes. Also, a lot of organic food is distributed locally. Less energy is needed to transport the food. This helps reduce global warming.

Next time you go grocery shopping, look for the green USDA Organic symbol. Choosing organic food supports a healthier you, healthier animals, and a healthier environment.

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Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?
   a. "When you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy."
   b. "Unless you're eating organic food, chances are that your food is jam-packed with chemicals."
   c. "Choosing organic food supports a healthier you, healthier animals, and a healthier environment."
   d. "Conventional farming uses genetically modified organisms, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that organic food is healthier than conventional food? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "Cows are given growth hormones."
   b. "Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly."
   c. "Did you know that your great-great-grandparents ate organically?"
   d. "Organic food cannot be treated with pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics, growth [illegible], or other chemicals."

Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "Animals are cage free."
   b. "Cows are required to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives."
   c. "Organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors and pastures."
   d. "They [conventional animals] are overfed and pumped with hormones to profit the farmer."

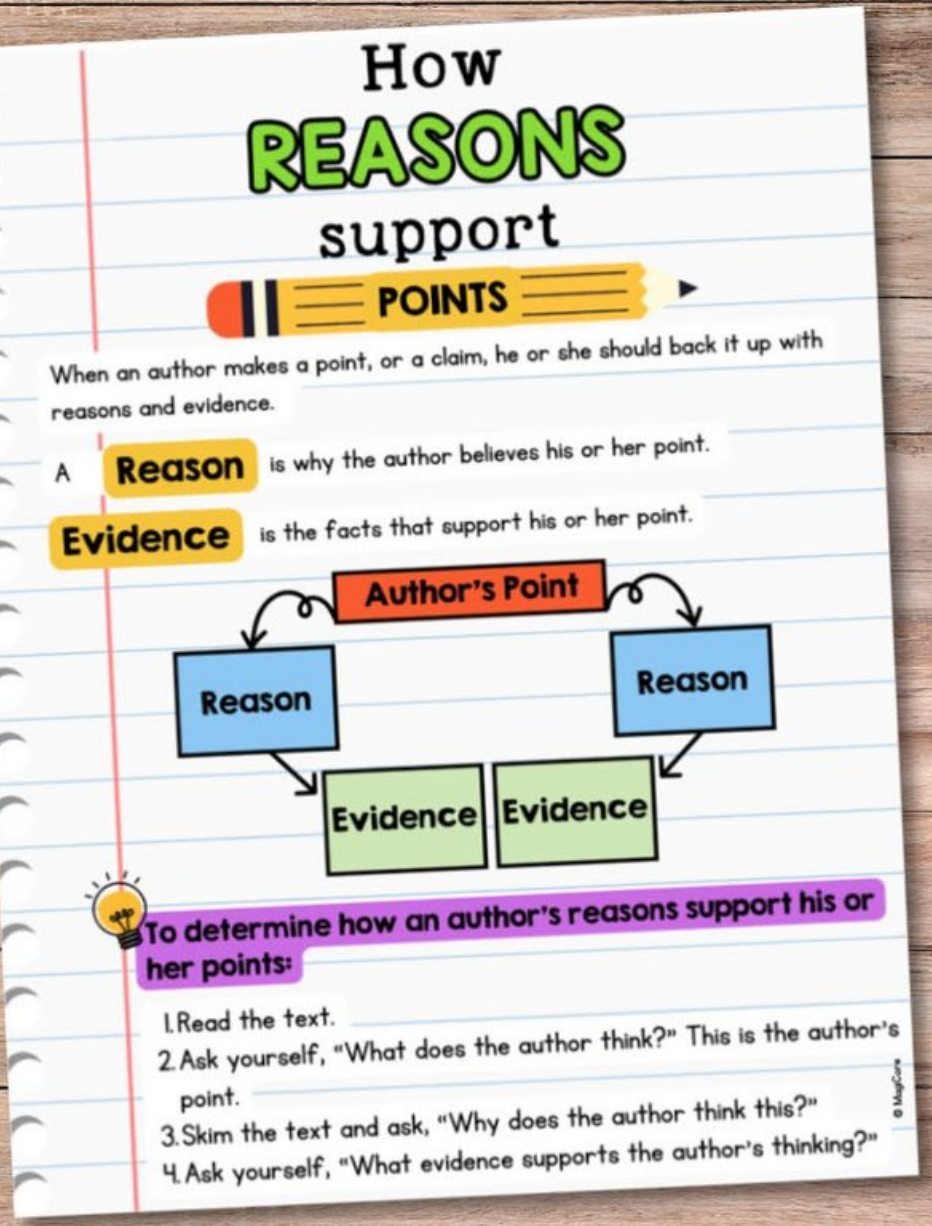
5. The author claims that organic food is better for our environment. Describe how the author supports this claim. Use at least two details in the answer.

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ANCHOR CHART

- Use to introduce the skill
- Students reference throughout the unit





ASSESSMENTS

780L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: The Dark Side of Aquariums

Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing. Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures. However, what is the price that is being paid for people to be entertained by these majestic sea mammals?

Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums are forced into small habitats. This is unnatural. In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans. They swim long distances every day. In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely. This can cause whales and dolphins to become frustrated and upset. They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks.



Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped. Many were taken from their natural habitats to be put into aquariums. These mammals were separated from their families. This is heartbreaking because dolphins and whales are known to form strong bonds with their families.

Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?
   a. "Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures."
   b. "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
   c. "Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing."
   d. "We should respect these marine mammals and keep them in their natural environment."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that it is unnatural for dolphins and whales to live in aquariums? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans."
   b. "In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely."
   c. "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
   d. "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"These mammals were separated from their families."

...sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?
...the space to move freely."
...kidnapped."

Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"Dolphins and whales are very advanced."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "Their brains are almost as large as human brains."
   b. "These animals have personalities and can feel emotions."
   c. "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."
   d. "Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains"

5. The author claims that dolphins and whales do not belong in aquariums. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim.

880L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: Why College Is Important



High school students are all faced with an important life-changing decision. Should they go to college? College is important because it can shape a person's future.

College degree holders earn more money. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, people with a bachelor's degrees earned an average of $1464 more per week than people who did not attend college. This higher salary adds up over a person's life. It can make a substantial difference in lifestyle. College-educated people will earn about $1 million more in their lives! In addition, college-educated people are less likely to face unemployment.

College graduates are more satisfied with their jobs. This may be because people who attend college have time to explore their career interests. They take classes that help them decide the career paths they may take. College students also gain experience in their fields of interest. Seventy-seven percent of people with postgraduate degrees believed that their jobs gave them a sense of identity. Sixty percent of people with bachelor's degrees believed the same, while only thirty-eight percent of people who were not college educated were satisfied. People with bachelor's degrees are much more likely to view their jobs as careers.

College graduates tend to help their communities. College students gain a variety of ... with people from different backgrounds. They learn to work with people who are ...



...d citizens are a compelling reason to plan

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Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?
   a. "College degree holders earn more money."
   b. "College is important because it can shape a person's future."
   c. "College students also gain experience in their fields of interest."
   d. "High school students are all faced with an important life-changing decision."

...What piece of evidence best supports the claim that college graduates earn more money? ...hoose all that apply.)
   a. "College-educated people will earn about $1 million more in their li...
   b. "In addition, college-educated people are less likely to face unemployment."
   c. "This may be because people who attend college have time to explore their career interests."
   d. "According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, people with bachelor's degrees earned an average of $1464 more per week than people who did not attend college."

...ad the following sentence from the passage.

..." percent of people with bachelor's degrees believed the same, while or... ...nt of people who were not college educated were satisfied."

...thor uses this sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?
   ... Career choice after college is important.
   ... A college education is unrelated to job satisfaction.
   College graduates are more satisfied with their jobs.
   College graduates and non-college graduates are satisfied with their jobs.

...another piece of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?

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Support Points

...k at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"College graduates tend to help their communities."	

...hich of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "...40% of college graduates volunteered in their communities."
   b. "College students also gain experience in their fields of interest."
   c. "They take classes that help them decide the career paths they may take."
   d. "College-educated citizens also were 1.5 times more likely to donate money to charities than people without college educations."

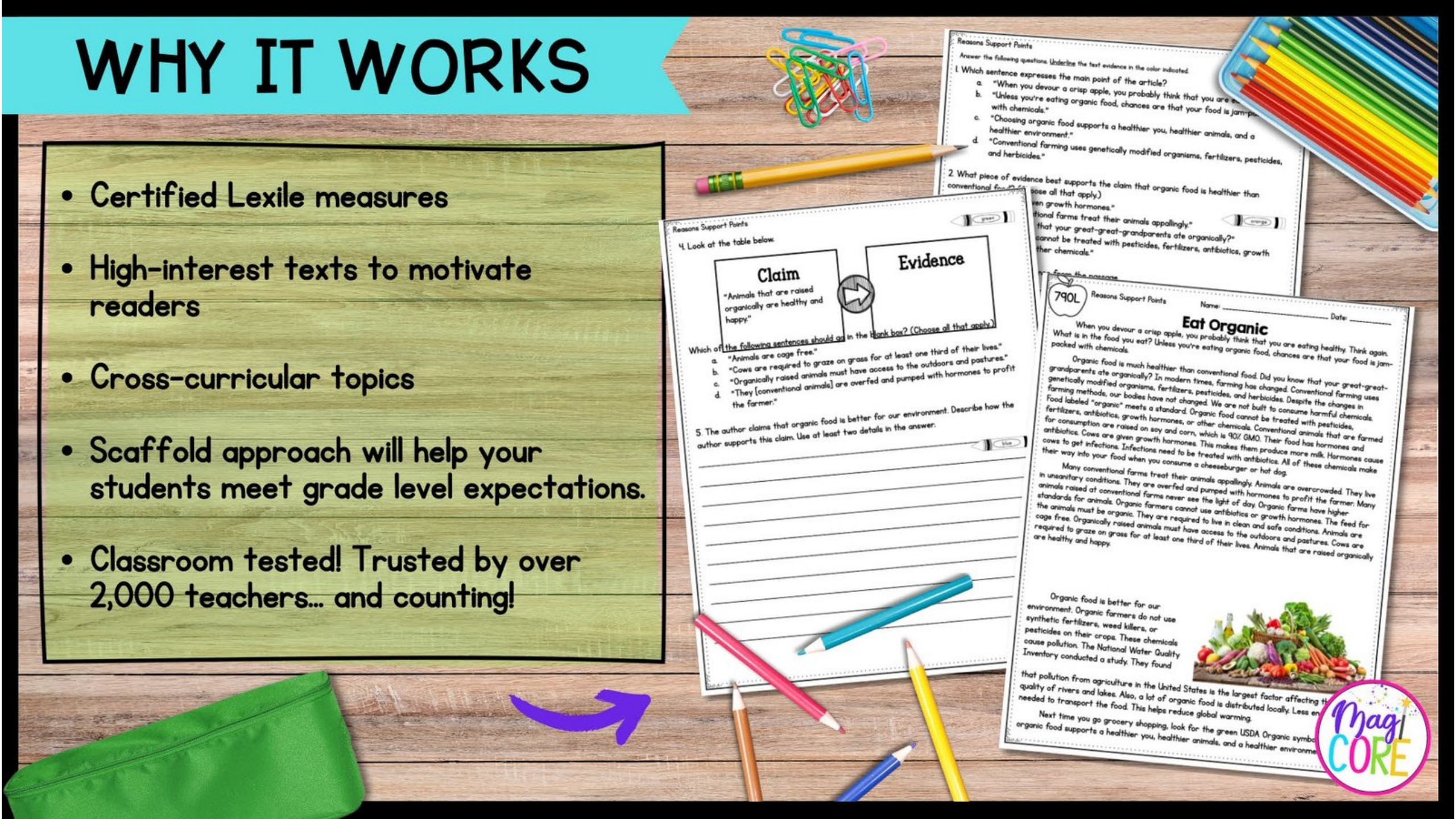
5. The author claims that college is important. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim.

- Same format as practice
- Two tests with different Lexile levels
- Color-coding
- Follows best practices for standardized assessments

MagiCORE

WHY IT WORKS

- Certified Lexile measures
- High-interest texts to motivate readers
- Cross-curricular topics
- Scaffold approach will help your students meet grade level expectations.
- Classroom tested! Trusted by over 2,000 teachers... and counting!



ALIGNS TO SCIENCE OF READING

Research shows that wide reading has the biggest impact on student reading progress.

Our passages provide that essential variety of nonfiction structures and topics.

Students need scaffolded instruction to access grade level texts. Without it, students are not exposure to linguistic and textural features, putting them further behind.

Our texts help students grow full-steam ahead. With certified Lexile levels in the Common Core text complexity band, students will 100% engage with appropriate text and sentence structures, vocabulary, and more. Plus, every passage provides teachers with opportunities to scaffold instruction.

Fun fact! From 2nd grade on, students make greater reading gains when taught from texts that are as much as two grade levels above their "instructional" reading level.

Lead the way! Our texts are leveled to master grade-level expectations and set students up for success.

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure that students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction, as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	190L-530L
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

TAKE A PEEK

REASONS & EVIDENCE SUPPORT POINTS

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile® leveled passages in the 4th-5th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740L-1010L)

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3. The Great Milk Debate- 790L
4. Are School Uniforms Best?- 810L
5. Say No to Plastic Bags- 860L
6. Space Exploration: We Need Funding!- 870L
7. Lather Up- 880L
8. Rock the Vote- 880L
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10. Why Do We Need Sleep?- 910L
11. Do You Really Need to Wear a Bicycle Helmet?- 910L
12. Test
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    - Why College Is Important- 880L

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CLICK HERE TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS RESOURCE TO YOUR GOOGLE DRIVE.

You MUST have a Google account in order to access this resource. Click HERE if you need help setting up a Google account.

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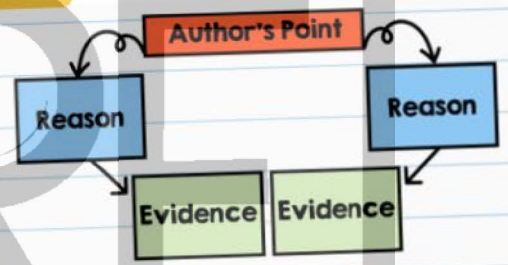
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How REASONS support POINTS

When an author makes a point, or a claim, he or she should back it up with reasons and evidence.

A **Reason** is why the author believes his or her point.

Evidence is the facts that support his or her point.



To determine how an author's reasons support his or her points:

1. Read the text.
2. Ask yourself, "What does the author think?" This is the author's point.
3. Skim the text and ask, "Why does the author think th
4. Ask yourself, "What evidence supports the author'

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AND ANOTHER PEEK

880L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Lather Up!

Did you know that there are about 1,500 bacteria per square centimeter of skin on your hand? Germs are everywhere. They are microscopic, and you cannot see them. Washing your hands is important to your health and the health of those around you.

In your daily activities, you acquire germs on your hands. When you go to the restroom, there are traces of feces and urine on your hands. If you wash your hands properly, you rid your hands of these harmful germs. People who don't wash their hands still have these germs on their hands. This can cause Salmonella, E. coli, and norovirus, which can make you very sick. One gram of human feces has one trillion germs! If these germs are left on your hands, they then spread to other objects and people when they touch things.

People who don't wash their hands transfer germs to other objects such as toys, handrails, and doors. Others then touch these objects and get the germs on their hands. If a person then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth or eats without washing his or her hands, he or she ingests the germs. These germs will make that person sick. Therefore, it is important to wash your hands before you touch your face or eat food. Good handwashing can prevent a lot of illnesses. Effective handwashing reduces the instances of diarrhea by 31%. Proper handwashing also reduces respiratory sickness, such as colds, by 16–21%.

Washing hands prevents illness. If illnesses are reduced, the amount of antibiotics used decreases. Sometimes antibiotics are prescribed for illnesses that could be prevented by proper hygiene. When antibiotics are overused, our bodies develop a resistance to them. Antibiotics stop working. Proper handwashing decreases the chance of antibiotic resistance.

It is important to wash your hands to stay healthy. You should always wash in the following situations: when your hands are dirty, before eating or touching food, after using the restroom, after touching pets, and after blowing your nose or coughing.



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Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Which sentence expresses the main point of the article? (red)
   a. "Germs are everywhere."
   b. "Washing your hands is important to your health and the health of those around you."
   c. "Did you know that there are about 1,500 bacteria per square centimeter of skin on your hand?"
   d. "You should always wash in the following situations: when your hands are dirty, before eating or touching food, after using the restroom, after touching pets, and after blowing your nose or coughing."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that you have germs on your hands? (Choose all that apply.) (orange)
   a. "They [germs] are microscopic, and you cannot see them."
   b. "If you wash your hands properly, you rid your hands of these harmful germs."
   c. "When you go to the restroom, there are traces of feces and urine on your hands."
   d. "Washing your hands is important to your health and the health of those around you."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage. (yellow)

"Proper handwashing also reduces respiratory sickness, such as colds, by 16–21%."

The author uses this sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?
   a. "Germs are everywhere."
   b. "Good handwashing can prevent a lot of illnesses."
   c. "People who don't wash their hands still have these germs on their hands."
   d. "People who don't wash their hands transfer germs to other objects such as toys, handrails, and doors."

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Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below. (green)

Claim	Evidence
"If illnesses are reduced, the amount of antibiotics used decreases."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "Washing hands prevents illness."
   b. "Effective handwashing reduces the instances of diarrhea by 31%."
   c. "When antibiotics are overused, our bodies develop a resistance to them."
   d. "Therefore, it is important to wash your hands before you touch your face or eat food."

5. The author claims that handwashing is important to everyone's health. Describe how the author supports this claim. Use at least two details in the answer. (blue)

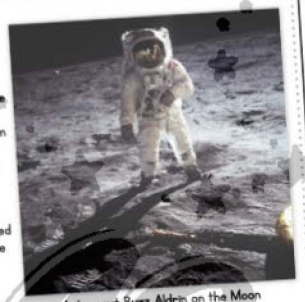
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CHECK THIS OUT TOO!

870L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Space Exploration: We Need Funding!

When you look up at the sky at night, do you ever think about what exists between all the stars? There's a whole universe that twinkles above us. Because that universe is so big, it's important to study it. We need to understand what is around us. There are many reasons to give money to space exploration. People like to discover new things, and we need to learn about all of the natural resources available in the world. We also need to know how to protect ourselves from dangerous objects in space.



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the Moon During Apollo 11

Exploring space means that scientists keep finding new things. Since 1957, astronauts have traveled to space to learn more about it. These astronauts live in space for several months and study the things around them. To live there, they need special equipment. This leads to discoveries and inventions in science, such as the silver space blanket that we use in emergencies to keep people warm in cold weather. Vacuum cleaners that are small and easy to move were also invented for space exploration. Another example is freeze-dried food. This has become common nowadays, but it was first created for astronauts since fresh food doesn't stay fresh in space. Memory foam mattresses were also invented for space shuttles so that astronauts could sleep better. We now find these mattresses in shops all around us. Do you often use a laptop or a computer mouse? These were also created for space missions. Even the small camera in your phone is the result of space exploration! If money hadn't been given for exploring new things in space, think about all of these inventions that we wouldn't have today. Plus, think about what we might discover on other planets.



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The second reason to fund space exploration is that there are too many people in the world. There are nearly 7.6 billion people living on Earth! Nearly 19.7% (1.5 billion) of the ...ves in China alone. That's how many ...n the whole world 100 years ago. Nearly ...e world lives in India. This means that ...ld's population lives in just China and ... people living in a very small space. The ...erica has the third biggest population ...n people. The world isn't big enough for ... in it. There also aren't enough natural ... oil, and even air, for so many people. ...stural resources in space; we just need ...ke Elon Musk are exploring life on other ...an move to another planet. Many ...we will have to leave Earth and find ...ce to live. To find the right place, they



Elon Musk owner of Space X

...d explore space. However, these explorations cost a lot of money, so we need

...t reason to spend money on exploring space is so that we can keep the Earth ...big as a football field crashing into Earth. Scientists say that this happens ever ...ks, called asteroids, are sometimes so big that they cause tidal waves in the ...nis, which are huge waves that flood cities and towns next to the sea and kill ...pace lets scientists look out for large asteroids that could destroy Earth. It ...k that this could happen, but it is theorized that it was an enormous asteroid ... Some scientists say that dinosaurs would still exist if the asteroid that wiped ...0 seconds later. Unless we want to become extinct like dinosaurs, it's ...o have the money they need to monitor these things. Without money for space ... be able to keep our planet safe from these things.

...s to the scientists, researchers, and astronauts who explore space. Without ...some of these inventions. Without them, we wouldn't be able to find new ...orld. Without them, we would never know about the giant asteroid that ...osaurs and asteroids that could destroy us, too. Without giving money to the ... we will never learn more about any of these things. This is why it's so ...ploration. The world as we know it depends on it.

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Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Which sentence(s) expresses the main point of the article? (red)
   a. "There's a whole universe that twinkles above us."
   b. "We also need to know how to protect ourselves from dangerous objects in space."
   c. "We owe our thanks to the scientists, researchers, and astronauts who explore space."
   d. "This is why it's so important to fund space exploration. The world as we know it depends on it."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that space exploration leads to discoveries and inventions in science? (Choose all that apply.) (orange)
   a. "There are too many people in the world."
   b. "Even the small camera in your phone is the result of space exploration!"
   c. "Vacuum cleaners that are small and easy to move were also invented for space exploration."
   d. "Memory foam mattresses were also invented for space shuttles so that astronauts could sleep better."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage. (yellow)

"There are nearly 7.6 billion people living on Earth!"

The author uses this sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?
   a. We need to keep the Earth safe.
   b. One third of the world's population lives in China and India.
   c. Exploring space means that scientists keep finding new things.
   d. Space exploration needs to be funded so that scientists can study alternate places for humans to live in the future.

What is another piece of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?

_____

_____

_____

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Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below. (green)

Claim	Evidence
Space exploration keeps Earth safe.	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box?
   a. "Exploring space lets scientists look out for large asteroids that could destroy Earth."
   b. "The second reason to fund space exploration is that there are too many people in the world."
   c. "People like Elon Musk are exploring life on other planets to see if we can move to another planet."
   d. "Some scientists say that dinosaurs would still exist if the asteroid that wiped them out had fallen just 30 seconds later."

5. The author claims that space exploration is important. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim. (blue)

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UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS!

780L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: The Dark Side of Aquariums

Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing. Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures. However, what is the price that is being paid for people to be entertained by these majestic sea mammals?

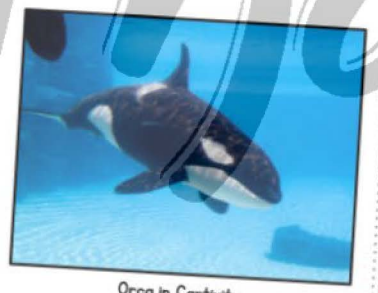
Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums are forced into small habitats. This is unnatural. In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans. They swim long distances every day. In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely. This can cause whales and dolphins to become frustrated and upset. They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks.

Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped. Many were taken from their natural habitats to be put into aquariums. These mammals were separated from their families. This is heartbreaking because dolphins and whales are known to form strong bonds with their families.

Dolphins and whales are very advanced. Their brains are almost as large as human brains. Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains. These animals have personalities and can feel emotions. We should respect these marine mammals and keep them in their natural environment.



Orca in the Wild



Orca in Captivity

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Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

red

1. Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?
   a. "Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures."
   b. "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
   c. "Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing."
   d. "We should respect these marine mammals and keep them in their natural environment."

orange

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that it is unnatural for dolphins and whales to live in aquariums? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans."
   b. "In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely."
   c. "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
   d. "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."

yellow

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"These mammals were separated from their families."

The author uses this sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?
   a. "In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely."
   b. "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
   c. "This can cause whales and dolphins to become frustrated and upset."
   d. "Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains."

What is another piece of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?

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Reasons Support Points

green

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"Dolphins and whales are very advanced."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)
   a. "Their brains are almost as large as human brains."
   b. "These animals have personalities and can feel emotions."
   c. "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."
   d. "Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains"

blue

5. The author claims that dolphins and whales do not belong in aquariums. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim.

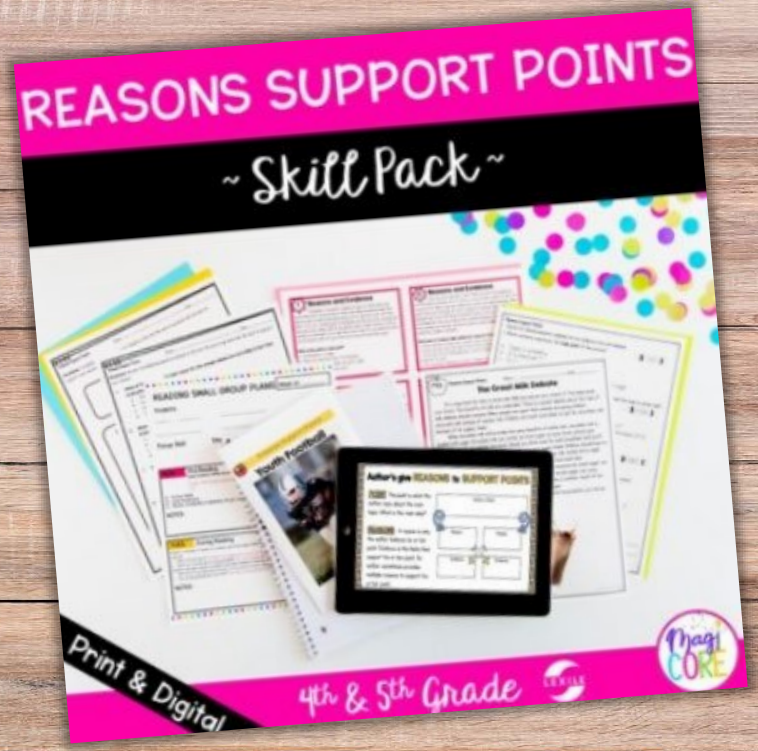
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