

Citing Text Evidence

Task cards: find the proof

GRADES 3-6



CLAIM



EVIDENCE

12 TASK CARDS

PASSAGE + KEY

ANCHOR CHART

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Teacher page: goal, 15-20 minute plan, standards
- Illustrated anchor chart: Does it PROVE the claim?
- Guided story with think-aloud notes (Level A)
- Nonfiction passage: Curiosity: A Robot on Mars (Level B)
- 12 find-the-proof task cards + 6 challenge cards
- Recording sheet, exit ticket (two per page) and answer key

Find the proof

LEARNING GOAL

I can find the sentence that PROVES a claim and quote it exactly.

THE 15-20 MINUTE LESSON

3 min	Hook	Anchor chart (page 3): which sentence SHOWS that Maya was cold? Why is the cold drink not proof?
8 min	I do	Read Where Is Pip? aloud (page 4). Think aloud with the notes for sentences 4, 5, 8 and 15.
5 min	We do	Partners: which sentence proves that Pip was happy at the park, 10 or 12? Sentence 10 has park; sentence 12 shows the feeling.
3 min	Check	Exit ticket (page 9), two per page.

Next day, centers or small groups: the Curiosity passage (page 5), 12 find-the-proof task cards and 6 proof-or-not challenge cards (pages 6–7) and the recording sheet (page 8). Answer key: page 10.

Say: A claim is an idea about the text. Evidence is the proof, in the text's own words. Same words are clues, not proof: ask, does it SHOW the claim?

LISTEN AND LOOK FOR

- Students point to the exact sentence and read it aloud.
- Students explain why a sentence with the same words is not proof (sentence 8: worried is what Dad said, not what Ana did).
- Students check the passage before they accept a quote (challenge card 17).

STANDARDS (WORDING CHECKED AGAINST THE OFFICIAL COMMON CORE TEXT)

RL.3.1/ RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL.4.1/ RI.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL.5.1/ RI.5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL.6.1/ RI.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Common Core's reading standard 1 uses the same wording for literature (RL) and informational text (RI) at each grade; this unit uses both text types, so either prefix applies. Check your state or district document for its own wording. Written for grades 3–5; grade 6 classes can use it as a quick review.

WHERE THIS LESSON FITS

Lesson 1 of the Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit (Grades 3–5); page 11 shows real pages from it.

Citing Text Evidence

Does it PROVE the claim?



CLAIM

A claim is an idea about the text.

Ask: which sentence PROVES it? Point to the words.

CLAIM

Maya was cold.



EVIDENCE

Evidence is the proof, in the text's own words.

Copy it exactly, inside quotation marks.

EVIDENCE

“Maya shivered and pulled her coat tight.”

NOT PROOF (TRICKY!)

- 1 Same words are not proof. “Maya had a cold drink” has the word cold, but it does not show that Maya was cold.
- 2 Proof comes from the text, not from what you know. “Winter is cold” may be true, but the story does not say it.
- 3 Prove the whole claim: “cold and hungry” needs proof for both parts.
- 4 Quote exactly, word for word. Your own words get no quotation marks.

Find the proof

Follow along as your teacher reads and thinks aloud. Then, with a partner, find the proof that Pip was happy at the park: is it sentence 10 or sentence 12?

**Where Is Pip?**

● Level A · 170 words

- 1 Ana opened the back door when she got home from school. 2 Her little dog, Pip, did not run to meet her. 3 His bowl of food still sat full on the floor. 4 The gate to the yard was open a crack.
- 5 Ana ran up and down the street, calling Pip's name again and again. 6 She looked under parked cars and behind the bushes. 7 Her hands shook as she taped a sign to a pole. 8 Her dad told her there was nothing to be worried about. 9 He said Pip was a smart dog who knew his way home.
- 10 Then Ana heard a loud bark coming from the park. 11 Pip was rolling in the grass by the swings. 12 His tail wagged so fast that it looked like a blur. 13 Ana scooped him up and hugged him tight.
- 14 That night, Ana put a new latch on the gate. 15 She checked it twice before she went to bed. 16 Pip curled up on her feet and fell fast asleep. 17 Ana smiled and rubbed his soft ears.

THINK ALOUD**4 Not what I know**

I know dogs can dig under fences. The story does not say that. It says the gate was open.

5 Find the proof

Claim: Ana was worried.

Proof: she ran up and down the street, calling his name.

8 Same words only

Sentence 8 has the word worried, but it tells what Dad said. It does not prove Ana was worried.

15 Quote it

Claim: Ana wanted Pip to stay safe. She “checked it twice before she went to bed.”

Read the passage. Use its numbered sentences for the task cards.



Curiosity: A Robot on Mars

■ Level B · 256 words

- 1 1 Mars is a cold, dusty desert world. 2 People often call it the Red Planet. 3 Iron in the dirt on Mars rusts. 4 The rust makes the ground look red. 5 Strong winds can stir up dust storms that cover much of the planet.
- 2 6 In 2012, a rover named Curiosity landed on Mars. 7 A rover is a robot that can drive around on another world. 8 This rover is about the size of a car. 9 It is about as tall as a basketball player. 10 When it left Earth in 2011, it was the largest rover ever sent to Mars.
- 3 11 Curiosity has 17 cameras. 12 Its arm is about 7 feet long. 13 The arm can hold tools close to rocks. 14 A drill on the end of the arm grinds rock into powder. 15 Tools inside the rover study the powder to learn what the rock is made of. 16 A laser on the rover can zap tiny spots on rocks that are far away to study them. 17 A weather station on the rover sends a weather report each day.
- 4 18 Scientists sent the rover to answer a big question. 19 Did Mars ever have the right conditions for tiny living things called microbes? 20 The rover hunts for rocks that formed in water. 21 Early in its trip, its tools found signs that parts of Mars once had the right conditions for microbes. 22 NASA missions have found lots of evidence that Mars was much wetter and warmer long ago.
- 5 23 The rover landed in a crater called Gale Crater. 24 Since then, it has driven up the slope of a mountain called Mount Sharp.

Find the proof

Cut apart the cards. Read the claim. Find the ONE sentence in *Curiosity: A Robot on Mars* that proves it. Write its number and the proof words.

1 Claim: Mars looks red because of rust.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

2 Claim: The rover can learn about a rock without touching it.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

3 Claim: The rover landed in a crater.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

4 Claim: Long ago, Mars may have had places where microbes could live.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

5 Claim: A rover does not need a driver sitting inside it.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

6 Claim: Curiosity has many cameras.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

7 Claim: Long ago, Mars had more water than it has today.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

8 Claim: Dust storms can cover a lot of Mars.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

9 Claim: The rover has gone uphill since it landed in the crater.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

10 Claim: The rover reports on the weather.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

Cards 11-12: find the proof. Cards 13-18: does the evidence prove the claim?

- 11** Claim: Curiosity is not the only rover that has gone to Mars.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

- 12** Claim: Iron is part of the dirt on Mars.

Which sentence proves the claim?

FIND THE PROOF

CHALLENGE CARDS: PROOF OR NOT?

- 13** Claim: The rover can test rocks.

“Tools inside the rover study the powder to learn what the rock is made of.”

Does this evidence prove the claim?

PROOF OR NOT?

- 14** Claim: The rover can take a rock back to Earth.

“When it left Earth in 2011, it was the largest rover ever sent to Mars.”

Does this evidence prove the claim?

PROOF OR NOT?

- 15** Claim: Mars is not a warm place today.

“Mars is a cold, dusty desert world.”

Does this evidence prove the claim?

PROOF OR NOT?

- 16** Claim: The rover is named Curiosity, and it landed in 2012.

“In 2012, a rover named Curiosity landed on Mars.”

Does this evidence prove the claim?

PROOF OR NOT?

- 17** Claim: Curiosity has six wheels.

“Curiosity rolls across Mars on six wheels.”

Does this evidence prove the claim?

PROOF OR NOT?

- 18** Claim: The rover has a long arm and a weather station.

“Its arm is about 7 feet long.”

Does this evidence prove the claim?

PROOF OR NOT?

Cards 1-12: write the sentence number and copy the proof words exactly. Cards 13-18: circle YES or NO; for a NO, write the reason: same words, not in text, or only half.

1 Sentence

Proof words: _____

2 Sentence

Proof words: _____

3 Sentence

Proof words: _____

4 Sentence

Proof words: _____

5 Sentence

Proof words: _____

6 Sentence

Proof words: _____

7 Sentence

Proof words: _____

8 Sentence

Proof words: _____

9 Sentence

Proof words: _____

10 Sentence

Proof words: _____

11 Sentence

Proof words: _____

12 Sentence

Proof words: _____

13 ☐ YES ☐ NO If NO, why?

Reason: _____

14 ☐ YES ☐ NO If NO, why?

Reason: _____

15 ☐ YES ☐ NO If NO, why?

Reason: _____

16 ☐ YES ☐ NO If NO, why?

Reason: _____

17 ☐ YES ☐ NO If NO, why?

Reason: _____

18 ☐ YES ☐ NO If NO, why?

Reason: _____

LESSON 1 · EXIT TICKET

Does it prove the claim?

Name _____

- 1 Claim: Omar was sleepy.

“Omar yawned three times and rubbed his eyes.”

Circle one:

YES

NO

If NO: ☐ same words ☐ not in text ☐ only half

- 2 Claim: Rosa likes to swim.

“Rosa's swim bag was too heavy to carry.”

Circle one:

YES

NO

If NO: ☐ same words ☐ not in text ☐ only half

- 3 Write a claim about Ana or Pip. Copy the sentence that proves it, in quotation marks.

Claim: _____

Proof: _____

cut

LESSON 1 · EXIT TICKET

Does it prove the claim?

Name _____

- 1 Claim: Omar was sleepy.

“Omar yawned three times and rubbed his eyes.”

Circle one:

YES

NO

If NO: ☐ same words ☐ not in text ☐ only half

- 2 Claim: Rosa likes to swim.

“Rosa's swim bag was too heavy to carry.”

Circle one:

YES

NO

If NO: ☐ same words ☐ not in text ☐ only half

- 3 Write a claim about Ana or Pip. Copy the sentence that proves it, in quotation marks.

Claim: _____

Proof: _____

Lesson 1

CARDS 1-12: FIND THE PROOF (SENTENCE NUMBER AND WHY)

Card 1	4	Sentence 4: The rust makes the ground look red.
Card 2	16	Trap: Sentence 15 shares more words (learn, rock), but its tools study rock powder. The laser in 16 studies rocks from far away.
Card 3	23	Sentence 23: The rover landed in a crater called Gale Crater.
Card 4	21	Trap: Sentence 22 shares long ago, but it is about water. Only 21 is about the right conditions for microbes.
Card 5	7	Trap: Sentence 15 shares rover and inside, but only 7 says a rover is a robot, so no one sits inside to drive.
Card 6	11	Sentence 11: Curiosity has 17 cameras.
Card 7	22	Sentence 22: NASA missions have found lots of evidence that Mars was much wetter and warmer long ago.
Card 8	5	Sentence 5: Strong winds can stir up dust storms that cover much of the planet.
Card 9	24	Trap: Sentence 23 shares landed and crater, but only 24 says it has driven up the slope of a mountain.
Card 10	17	Sentence 17: A weather station on the rover sends a weather report each day.
Card 11	10	Trap: Sentence 6 shares Curiosity, rover and Mars, but only 10 (the largest rover ever sent) shows other rovers went too.
Card 12	3	Sentence 3: Iron in the dirt on Mars rusts.

PROOF-OR-NOT CARDS 13-18: A NO NEEDS ITS REASON

Card 13	YES	proof: its tools study rock powder
Card 14	NO - same words	It shares rover and Earth, but leaving Earth does not show it can bring a rock back.
Card 15	YES	Only Mars matches the claim's words, but cold proves it is not warm. Proof can use other words.
Card 16	YES	proof of both parts: the name and the year
Card 17	NO - not in text	It shares Curiosity, six and wheels, but the passage never says it. Evidence must be words the text prints.
Card 18	NO - only half	It shares arm and long, but it proves only the arm. The weather station needs its own proof (sentence 17).

EXIT TICKET (WHERE IS PIP? ONLY)

1	YES	Only Omar matches the claim's words, but yawning and rubbing his eyes show he was sleepy.
2	NO - same words	It shares Rosa and swim, but a heavy bag does not show that Rosa likes to swim.
3	Sample	Claim: Pip did not eat his dinner. Proof: "His bowl of food still sat full on the floor."
Cards	Scoring	Accept the sentence number with words copied exactly from that sentence; accept another sentence only if the student shows how it proves the whole claim.

Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit · Grades 3-5

Real pages from the unit (reduced):

MILESTONE READING SKILLS · CITING TEXT EVIDENCE
 PRE-ASSESSMENT Form A
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Score: ____ / 12
 Read carefully. Take your time.
 PART A: READ THE SCENE
The Spelling Bee
 Leo stood on the stage and waited for his next word. His knees were shaking, and he kept wiping his hands on his pants. The judge gave him a long word, and he spelled it slowly and correctly. The crowd clapped, and his life sister waved a sign with his name on it. A wide grin grew on his face the long way back to his seat.
 DOES IT PROVE THE CLAIM? IF NO, CHECK ONE REASON.
 1. Claim: Leo was nervous on the stage. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 2. Claim: Leo washed calmly on the stage. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 3. Claim: Leo practiced his words each night. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 4. Claim: Leo spelled the long word slowly and correctly. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 5. Claim: Leo spelled the long word correctly and won the spelling bee. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 6. Claim: Leo was happy with his win, and his friends came to watch. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 7. Claim: Leo was happy with his win, and his friends came to watch. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 8. Claim: Leo was happy with his win, and his friends came to watch. YES ☐ NO ☐ same words not in text only half
 Milestone Reading Skills · Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit Page 1

Pre-assessment, Form A

MILESTONE READING SKILLS · CITING TEXT EVIDENCE
 LESSON 2: PART 2: PROOF or NOT?
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Write YES or NO. For a NO, check one reason. Is the quote in the passage?
Evidence
 YES or NO IF NO, why not?
 Claim 1: A raccoon's paws help it get food.
 1. "The paws can grab branches, nuts, and fruit." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 2. "Raccoons search for food at night." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 3. "Raccoons wash their food in water before they eat it." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 4. "Their paws help raccoons get food that other animals cannot." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 Claim 2: Raccoons eat both meat and plants.
 5. "They like grasshoppers, mice, and bird eggs." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 6. "Raccoons also eat plants, such as nuts and berries." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 7. "Raccoons are omnivores, so they eat both meat and plants." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 8. "They like grasshoppers, mice, and squirrels." YES ☐ NO ☐ some words not in text only half
 Milestone Reading Skills · Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit Page 16

Lesson 2: Proof or Not? chart

MILESTONE READING SKILLS · CITING TEXT EVIDENCE
 LESSON 3: YOU DO Quote it exactly
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Use the Bole Sale. For a NO in Part A, check what went wrong.
 PART A: IS IT COPIED EXACTLY? CHECK THE SENTENCE.
 1. A student quoted sentence 6 like this: "At the front steps, she tripped and dropped the tray."
 Circle one: YES ☐ NO ☐ if NO: ☐ changed ☐ left out ☐ own words
 2. A student quoted sentence 8 like this: "Some of the muffins were a little too brown on the bottom."
 Circle one: YES ☐ NO ☐ if NO: ☐ changed ☐ left out ☐ own words
 3. A student quoted sentence 11 like this: "Their teacher said the class will have enough money for twenty new books."
 Circle one: YES ☐ NO ☐ if NO: ☐ changed ☐ left out ☐ own words
 4. A student quoted sentence 13 like this: "Nora's friend Sam counted the money in a small metal box."
 Circle one: YES ☐ NO ☐ if NO: ☐ changed ☐ left out ☐ own words
 PART B: QUOTE OR PARAPHRASE?
 5. Which one puts sentence 6 in your own words the right way in parentheses?
 (A) At the front steps, she tripped and almost dropped the tray.
 (B) Nora tripped on the steps and nearly let the tray fall.
 (C) Nora fell down the steps, and the muffins spilled on the grass.
 (D) The story says Nora "slipped on the stairs but held on to the tray."
 PART C: PROVE IT WITH A QUOTE
 6. Prove this claim with a quote from paragraph 2: Nora was embarrassed when she tripped.
 According to the story,
 Milestone Reading Skills · Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit Page 33

Lesson 3: quote it exactly

MILESTONE READING SKILLS · CITING TEXT EVIDENCE
 LESSON 4: YOU DO Prove both parts
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Copy proof for EACH part of each claim, and write in paragraph number.
 Claim 1: Jonah is a kind friend, and he is learning new skills at camp.
 Part 1: a kind friend Paragraph: _____ Proof: _____
 Part 2: learning new skills Paragraph: _____ Proof: _____
 Claim 2: The canoe trip was scary, but Jonah and Eli had fun.
 Part 1: scary Paragraph: _____ Proof: _____
 Part 2: had fun Paragraph: _____ Proof: _____
 CHECK: PROVE THE MISSING PART
 1. A student proved only part 1 of a claim. Which sentence best proves part 2: Jonah did not give up on the swim test?
 (A) Before the test, my stomach felt as if it were full of buzzing bees.
 (B) Halfway there, I wanted to grab the ropes, but I kept going.
 (C) The scariest part of the week was the swim test.
 (D) Jonah did not think about quitting during the swim test.
 Milestone Reading Skills · Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit Page 54

Lesson 4: prove both parts

MILESTONE READING SKILLS · CITING TEXT EVIDENCE
 LESSON 5: SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW Monarchs
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Read the passage. The sentences are numbered. Then answer the Show What You Know questions.

Monarch Butterflies
 1. The monarch is one of the easiest butterflies in North America to recognize. Its deep orange wings have black borders and veins, and there are white spots along the edges. From tip to tip, its wings measure three to four inches. Males have a small black spot on each of their back wings, but females do not.
 2. A monarch begins its life as an egg that its mother lays on a milkweed plant. The egg hatches in three to five days, and a caterpillar crawls out. The caterpillar has yellow, black, and white stripes. It feeds only on milkweed leaves. It grows and sheds its skin several times in about two weeks. Milkweed makes a poison that keeps most animals from eating it. But the poison does not harm the monarch.
 3. As it feeds, it stores the poison in its body, and the poison makes it taste bad. That keeps away the animals that hunt it. The poison stays in its body even after it becomes a butterfly. A monarch's bright orange wings serve as a warning to other animals that it is poisonous.
 4. Most adult monarchs live for only a few weeks. However, the monarchs that hatch in late summer can live for more than eight months. This last group of the year flies south to spend the winter. Monarchs from east of the Rocky Mountains travel to cool, high mountains in central Mexico. A single monarch can travel hundreds or even thousands of miles, even though it has never made the trip before.
 Milestone Reading Skills · Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit Page 59

Lesson 5: Level C passage

MILESTONE READING SKILLS · CITING TEXT EVIDENCE
 REVIEW: TASK CARDS Does it prove the claim?
 Name: _____ Date: _____
 Cut apart the cards. Each card has a claim and a quote from a text. Does the quote prove the claim? Circle YES or NO on the recording sheet and write why.
 1. TASK CARD
 Claim: Jon was sleepy. Proof or not? "Jon yawned and rubbed his eyes during the movie."
 2. TASK CARD
 Claim: The puppy chewed David's slipper and damaged it. Proof or not? "The puppy chewed a hole in Dad's new slipper."
 3. TASK CARD
 Claim: Lena catches fish before school. Proof or not? "Lena fed her fish before she left for school."
 4. TASK CARD
 Claim: Owen is going swimming, and his cousin is coming too. Proof or not? "Owen packed his swimwear and a towel."
 5. TASK CARD
 Claim: The class heard the bell and was excited about recess. Proof or not? "The class cheered when the bell rang for recess."
 6. TASK CARD
 Claim: Grandma's garden is full of weeds. Proof or not? "Grandma's garden has tomatoes, beans, and corn."
 7. TASK CARD
 Claim: The dog was scared and tried to hide. Proof or not? "The dog hid under the bed when the thunder boomed."
 8. TASK CARD
 Claim: Kari read his new book until his mom turned off the light. Proof or not? "Kari read his new book until his mom turned off the light."
 Milestone Reading Skills · Citing Text Evidence Complete Unit Page 61

24 more task cards

WHAT THE FULL UNIT ADDS TO THIS LESSON

- 4 more lessons in gradual release: proof or not, quote it exactly, prove both parts of a claim, and a show-what-you-know finale
- 6 more original passages at three measured reading levels (150 to 270 words), level and length printed; the finale puts one topic at all three levels
- Pre- and post-assessment in parallel forms (12 points each) with a class tracker
- 24 more task cards with a recording sheet, including trap cards where the same words mislead
- 3 small-group reteach cards for the most common mix-ups, mapped to the test items
- Exit tickets for Lessons 1-4 and an answer key for every page

Find the full unit on TpT:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/x-17726557>

THANK YOU

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MILESTONE TEACHERS

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TOMORROW: THE THREE MIX-UPS AND WHAT TO SAY

Same words. Ask: does this sentence SHOW the claim, or does it only share a word? Read the claim again, then the sentence.

Not in the text. Ask: can you point to these exact words? If not, it is what you know, not evidence.

Only half. Ask: how many parts does the claim have? Find proof for each part.

Next step. Sort the exit tickets into got it, almost and not yet. Give the almost pile one new claim and two sentences to choose from, aloud.