

Nonfiction Research Notes

Gather information from child-appropriate trusted sources, take notes in your own words and separate fact from unanswered questions.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Gather information from child-appropriate trusted sources, take notes in your own words and separate fact from unanswered questions.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 Research begins with a clear question.

2 Notes should capture meaning without copying whole sentences.

3 Sources can differ in reliability and purpose.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Turn a broad topic into three research questions.

Paraphrase a short fact into note form.

Label a statement as fact, opinion or question.

Choose the more suitable source for a simple factual question.

Create a source-note table with source, fact and follow-up question.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

With an adult, use two trusted sources to answer one small question and compare what each contributes.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a one-page mini report with three facts, one diagram and a simple source list.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Why avoid copying whole source sentences?

2. What should you do when two sources disagree?

3. What makes a research question useful?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Nonfiction Research Notes”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

Write in your own words and respect rights.

2. Suggested response

Check more reliable/current evidence and ask an adult/teacher.

3. Suggested response

It is focused and answerable.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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