

Research Notes & Synthesis

Answer a focused question by taking notes from more than one suitable source and combining ideas in original wording.

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

Answer a focused question by taking notes from more than one suitable source and combining ideas in original wording.

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 A focused question guides what information is relevant.

2 Notes should capture ideas without copying whole sentences.

3 Synthesis combines related information from sources rather than listing them separately.

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 one focused research question.

Paraphrase two short facts into note form.

Group notes by subtopic rather than by source.

Identify where two sources agree or add different details.

Write a three-sentence synthesis using information from both sources.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

With adult support, answer one small factual question using two trusted sources and record the source titles.

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 research organiser with question, source notes, shared ideas, differences and final answer.

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

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. What is synthesis?

2. Why group notes by idea?

3. Should a research answer include information unrelated to the question?

Quick review

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

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

Combining relevant ideas from multiple sources into a new explanation.

2. Suggested response

It helps connections become visible.

3. Suggested response

No.

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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