





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Basic Research Skills

**Directions:** The world is full of questions and in order to answer some of those questions, it is necessary to do research. Research is when you read and look at resources in order to understand something. Sometimes the goal is to deepen your understanding, but other times, your research can lead you to new ideas. Use the activities below to improve your research skills. Remember, it's important to discover what works best for **you**! First, read the research tips and the article on the next page and then use the activities to practice your research skills.

 <b>Keyword Search</b>	 <b>Choosing (and Using) Sources</b>
Remember that research can lead you to deepen your knowledge. If you're using online search tools to conduct your research, start by generating a list of words that describe what you want to learn about. Use those words to search online or in books. The <i>Table of Contents</i> or <i>Index</i> is a good place to start when using a physical or digital book.	Look for sources that are appropriate for you, like books in the school library or websites approved by teachers. If you're struggling to understand a resource, use close reading strategies to navigate the text OR choose a different source. Always check if the source has true and helpful information. Ask an adult if you're not sure if a source is good.
 <b>Collecting and Organizing Sources</b>	 <b>Note-Taking</b>
Keep track of where you find information (like writing down the title of a book or the website address). Use folders or labels to keep your sources organized. You'll want to come back to your sources, so keep the process easy for yourself!	Use short sentences, sticky notes, or highlighters to document what you learned from each source. Include the main ideas, important facts, little doodles, or interesting statistics. Your notes will help you remember what you've learned!

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# ***Research Article: "The Agility of Cats"***

*Agility is the ability to move with ease and speed. Cats are extraordinary creatures that have exceptional agility. One of the most incredible things about them is their exceptional ability to balance. Have you ever noticed how a cat can leap from a high place and always land on its feet? This amazing skill is called the "righting reflex." Cats have an incredible sense of balance that helps them twist and turn their bodies mid-air, allowing them to land on their feet, even from high up. Amazing, right? Their flexible backbone and strong muscles play a crucial role in this remarkable acrobatic feat.*

*Their super-sensitive whiskers also contribute to their balance. Whiskers serve as important tools for cats to sense their surroundings. These whiskers are highly sensitive and help cats determine if they can fit into a tight space or if they are getting too close to an object. They act like little sensors, providing crucial information to help cats navigate and maintain their balance.*

*Speaking of navigation, cats can see very well in the dark. Their eyes have a special layer called the tapetum lucidum, which reflects light and allows them to see better in dark conditions. In the wild, this amazing adaptation helps cats hunt and move around at night with ease.*

*Cats have a strong sense of curiosity and hunting instincts that drive them to explore and climb. Their flexible bodies and sharp claws help them climb trees effortlessly. Have you ever seen a cat squeeze through a tiny space? Cats have a remarkable ability to fit into small openings due to their flexible bodies, making them expert escape artists when they need to be!*

*Their sense of hearing also plays a role in their agility. Cats have excellent hearing, allowing them to detect even the slightest rustle or movement. This sense of hearing helps them react quickly and stay alert, enhancing their agility and ability to navigate their surroundings.*

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# Research Skills: What did you learn?

**Directions:** Using the research article, “The Agility of Cats,” use one or both of the following note-taking strategies to document what you’ve learned about cats. You can use the space below, a separate sheet of paper, or a digital program of your choice. What works best for you?

<b>Bullet Point Notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write short, concise points summarizing key information.</li><li>• Use bullet points to list important facts or main ideas.</li></ul>	<b>Visual Notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draw quick sketches or doodles alongside notes to represent ideas.</li><li>• Use small drawings or visual symbols to illustrate key points.</li></ul>

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# Research Skills: Let's learn more!

**Directions:** Using the research article, "The Agility of Cats," determine several keywords that you can use to **deepen and continue** your research about cats or a different agile animal. Use one column to plan which keywords you'll use and the other to document new or interesting facts that you did not know based only on your reading of "The Agility of Cats."

<b>Keyword List:</b> Choose some keywords that you can use to research additional information about cats or another agile animal. Write the keywords below.	<b>New Information:</b> Use the space below to document new or interesting facts about cats or another agile animal. "New and interesting facts" can be more specific or scientific information. Remember, you can copy directly from your source or summarize. Don't forget to identify which source your details are from. Tip: You can number them "Source #1" "Source #2," etc.