

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

# How Does the Author Use Research?

Writers pack a lot of information into their writing. Each piece of information is gathered from a source and is included for a reason—such as to support a central idea, provide background information, or establish mood. In this activity, you will explore how and why an author uses research in an article.

**Directions:** Choose three details from the text and fill in the chart.

Detail	Possible source	What does it add to the article?	How?
"Before long, the mongooses had devoured so many bird eggs, rodents, and reptiles that they were endangering many species." (p. 8)	a newspaper article about mongooses in Hawaii	It supports a central idea.	This detail supports the central idea that invasive species can be harmful to the environments in which they live.
"In an article in <u>The New Yorker</u> magazine, writer Burkhard Bilger takes us back to 1992, when Hurricane Andrew slammed into Florida." (p. 7)	<u>The New Yorker</u> magazine	It provides background information.	The detail provides background information about how pythons came to the Everglades.
"An adult Burmese python can be more than 20 feet long. (That's three times LeBron James's height!) The snakes have enormous appetites for live animals." (p. 7)	a nonfiction book about snakes	It helps readers understand a piece of background information and supports a central idea.	The author states that some pythons were released into the Everglades by their owners. This detail helps readers understand why those owners wanted to get rid of their pets. The detail also helps readers understand why pythons are so harmful to the ecosystem of the Everglades.