

Name _____ Date _____ Time taken _____

What this sheet trains

Divided attention - holding a second rule in mind while your main attention is busy elsewhere. This is the skill behind listening to a teacher while taking notes, or checking your working while solving the next step.

Strategy: anchor and sweep. Give the main task your focus and let the second task run as a quick, automatic check - do not swap your full attention back and forth.

1 Read and tally

Main task: read the passage once. Second task: the counting rule below.

Counting rule

Every time you read the word mangrove or mangroves, make one tally mark in the box at the foot of the page. Do not go back and re-read. One pass only.

Along the coast of Borneo, thick forests grow with their feet in salty water. These are mangrove forests. A mangrove is a tree that can survive where a river meets the sea. Most plants would die in such salty mud. A mangrove pushes much of the salt back out through its leaves and roots.

The roots are the strangest part. They arch out of the trunk like bent fingers and grip the soft mud. Some mangrove roots even poke up into the air to breathe, because the mud below holds almost no oxygen. Together, these tangled roots slow the waves down. When a storm pushes water towards the shore, a healthy mangrove belt takes the first hit. The village behind it stays drier.

The tangle is also a nursery, and a busy one. Young prawns, crabs and fish hide among the mangrove roots, where larger hunters cannot follow. Fishing families in Malaysia have long realised that fewer mangroves usually means fewer fish. For years these forests were cleared for fish ponds and building land, and the catch fell away. Now many mangroves are being replanted along the coast, one small seedling at a time.

Tally here - one mark per mangrove or mangroves

Make the marks as you read, then write your total before turning the page.

Total

1 Questions - cover the passage first

Answer from memory. Do not look back at the passage.

My tally total

From page 1

Q1. Where do mangrove forests grow, and what makes the water there unusual?

Q2. Why do some mangrove roots grow upwards into the air?

Q3. Why might a village behind a cleared coast be in more danger during a storm?

Q4. What does the last paragraph suggest about how people's view of mangroves has changed?

2 Grid sweep with a running count

Main task: cross out targets. Second task: keep a count in your head.

Rules - read both before you start, then start the timer

Main: cross out every number that is a multiple of 3.

Second: count - silently, no marks - how many numbers end in 0. Write the total in the box only when you have finished the whole grid.

50	46	49	97	65	34	93	13	56	19	53	76	32	32	53	29
25	59	21	68	16	33	32	44	47	37	74	64	22	52	14	77
35	62	83	14	94	17	20	20	19	59	14	83	48	98	24	95
34	38	11	42	17	76	80	55	68	59	73	40	13	28	91	17
34	88	87	98	70	64	13	40	16	45	20	41	91	10	85	13
66	70	97	78	29	62	13	73	43	52	26	83	16	72	95	94
65	25	95	80	32	19	46	49	51	44	61	17	92	48	20	47
99	85	20	95	29	66	73	89	52	91	37	82	92	41	97	41

Stop the timer when the grid is finished, not when you write the total.

Numbers ending in 0

Write it once the grid is done

3 Copy and total

Main task: copy each row of digits. Second task: keep a running total.

Rules

Main: copy each three-digit group into the box beside it, in order.

Second: add the middle digit of every row to a running total as you go.

Write the running total in the box at the end of each row - from memory, not by going back and adding up at the end.

	Copy here	Running total
3 4 7		
5 9 9		
4 8 5		
2 1 7		
8 5 3		
5 2 8		
4 8 8		
3 2 9		
8 7 2		
5 6 8		
9 8 6		
6 7 2		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. While you were tallying, which job slipped first - the reading or the counting - and why do you think that happened?

Q2. Name one lesson at school where you must listen and write at the same time.

Q3. What is one small change that would make your homework corner easier to think in?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
mangrove or mangroves

8

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 3

15

Task 2 · counted
ending in 0

13

Task 3 · final total
middle digits

67

Task 1 - suggested answers

Q1. They grow along tropical coasts, such as in Borneo, where a river meets the sea and the mud is salty.

Q2. The mud below holds almost no oxygen, so those roots reach into the air to breathe.

Q3. Without the mangrove belt to take the first hit, the waves reach the houses with their full force.

Q4. People once cleared them for ponds and land; now they understand their value and are replanting them.

Notes for the parent or teacher

- Mark the two tasks separately. A student who scores well on the main task and loses the count has not failed - that is the normal pattern, and it is the thing worth discussing.
- Do not prompt or remind during a task. The reminder is the skill.
- An untimed run is a valid run. Record the time only if the student wants to beat it next week.
- Repeat the sheet after a week rather than straight away. Spacing is what makes the gain stick.
- This is attention practice, not an assessment. It does not diagnose anything, and no sheet of this kind should be read as a measure of ability.