

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 water, make one tally mark in the box at the foot of the page. Do not go back and re-read. One pass only.

The Salar de Atacama in northern Chile is one of the driest places on Earth: a cracked crust of salt lying over a buried lake of very salty water. That water carries lithium, the lightest of all metals, which sits inside almost every rechargeable battery sold today. Chile supplies a large share of the world's lithium without sinking a single deep mine.

Instead, pumps lift the salty water to the surface and spread it across shallow ponds. The desert sun does the rest of the work, drawing off water month after month until what remains is concentrated enough to be processed. The method uses very little energy and costs little, but it consumes the one thing the Atacama has least of. Every tonne of lithium leaves behind hundreds of tonnes of evaporated water, in a basin where rain almost never falls.

Farming families around the salar say their wells are dropping, the wetlands are shrinking and the flamingos that feed there have thinned out. The companies reply that the brine they pump is far too salty to drink and is not the fresh water the villages rely on. The two may still be joined somewhere underground, and nobody can yet prove otherwise. A battery sold as clean in Europe may have been paid for with water in a desert, and that part of the price is not printed on the box.

Tally here - one mark per water

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. How is lithium taken out of the Salar de Atacama without deep mining?

Q2. Why is a method that uses almost no energy still costly for the Atacama?

Q3. Why is the argument between the villages and the companies so hard to settle?

Q4. What claim about clean technology is the writer making at the end?

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 6.

Second: count - silently, no marks - how many numbers end in 2. Write the total in the box only when you have finished the whole grid.

87	65	75	17	70	88	90	77	69	86	67	21	91	56	16	53
82	99	61	63	83	69	60	89	31	41	70	83	92	67	24	91
53	94	15	26	81	74	95	63	54	92	68	95	18	27	91	67
67	47	95	45	99	15	38	55	48	37	74	90	82	22	95	47
92	95	84	14	62	46	62	61	36	51	21	22	46	80	33	38
32	75	13	77	14	48	97	62	46	62	23	38	29	59	38	49
41	51	73	54	49	46	10	95	98	48	62	49	31	53	94	78
65	31	73	58	40	43	96	64	56	45	75	38	65	81	64	48

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

Numbers ending in 2

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
1 6 4		
1 5 6		
8 6 3		
3 3 5		
3 6 8		
5 5 6		
1 6 8		
3 5 3		
1 5 6		
2 7 3		
2 7 4		
3 1 9		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. Which half of the task slid first, and what do you think pulled your attention away?

Q2. How do you get back into a text after your mind has gone somewhere else for a minute?

Q3. If you had to do this again tomorrow, what one thing would you do differently?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
water

7

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 6

15

Task 2 · counted
ending in 2

13

Task 3 · final total
middle digits

62

Task 1 - suggested answers

Q1. Salty water is pumped from underground into shallow ponds, where the desert sun evaporates it until the lithium is concentrated.

Q2. Evaporation uses up huge volumes of water in a basin that receives almost no rain to replace it.

Q3. Nobody can prove whether the deep salty water and the villages' fresh water are connected underground.

Q4. A product can look clean where it is sold while its real cost is paid somewhere else, out of sight.

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.