**4th/5th Grade**

**Text Evidence** Task Cards

Task Cards:

Record Sheet

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Levi Strauss came to the United States from Germany in 1847. He stayed with his family in New York, where they owned a clothing store. In 1853, while the Gold Rush was in full swing, he moved to San Francisco, California and sold supplies to gold miners. His real success came when he and tailor Jacob Davis teamed up to make the first "blue jeans" for miners. These durable (sturdy) pants were popular with the miners and Strauss became a very wealthy man.

1. For what reason were jeans popular with miners?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Today, the United Postal Service delivers mail by truck and by plane but it was not always delivered this way. In the past, mail was carried by stagecoaches and steamships. It was also carried on horses. For example, the Pony Express carried mail across the country to the gold fields of Sacramento, California in the 1860's. Around this same time, trains started to carry mail, especially with the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

2. Name a reason the Pony Express delivered mail in the 1860's.

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Volcanoes are a dangerous force of nature. When a volcano erupts, magma from deep inside the Earth's crust, travels to the opening of the volcano and comes out as hot lava. This extremely hot liquid rock will burn everything in its path. Volcanoes that are known to erupt are called "active". There are active volcanoes throughout the world including Indonesia, Russia, New Zealand, Italy, Iceland, Guatemala, and even the United States.

3. List one reason that volcanoes are so dangerous.

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Narwhals live in the cold waters of the Arctic Ocean. They are social animals and travel in groups called pods with about 20 narwhals per pod. A narwhal is a mammal that is related to the whale. Most narwhals have a long, sword like tusk above their mouths. The tusk is actually a tooth that has gone through the narwhal's upper lip. This tooth twists as it grows and can grow up to eight feet long. Once broken, it will not grow back.

4. How do scientists know narwhals are social animals?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Koala bears are marsupials, which means they have pouches. A koala mother usually gives birth to one baby, called a joey, which is the size of a jelly bean. The joey is born blind, naked, and earless. As soon as it's born, this tiny creature makes its way from the birth canal to its mother's pouch, where it feeds and grows until it is old enough to leave the pouch, at about seven months. The joey eats leaves at this age but returns to the pouch to nurse until it turns one.

5. How do you know that a koala newborn is tiny?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Tsunamis are dangerous waves which are formed as a result of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or landslides that occur under the ocean. When these events occur, huge amounts of energy are released as a result of the quick upward movement. For example, if an underwater volcano erupts, the ocean floor may quickly move upward several hundred feet. When this happens, huge volumes of ocean water are pushed upward and a tsunami wave is formed.

6. Why do tsunamis start from underwater earthquakes, volcanoes or landslides?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Insects have many predators, including birds, lizards, small mammals, spiders and most dangerous of all, other insects. In order to protect themselves, insects have many different defenses. Some insects fly away, run, hide and use their body armor. Bees, wasps and many ants have powerful stings which can be painful. Some ants spray an acid on their enemies form their rear ends. If you disturb a nest of wood ants, you'll be able to smell the acid.

7. Why do insects have to use so many defense strategies?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest nation in the world. Its borders touch every South American country except Chile and Ecuador. The Brazilian landscape is most well-known for its dense forests, including the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest, which is in the north. Brazil also has dry grasslands (called pampas), rugged hills, pine forests, wetlands, plateaus, and a long coastal plain.

8. For what reason is the Amazon famous according to this text?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

American alligators can be found in the southeastern United States, particularly in Florida and Louisiana. Alligators live in rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps, bayous, and marshes. These reptiles are strong swimmers because they are equipped with webbed feet and strong tails to propel them through the water. In the wild, an American alligator usually lives to be 35 to 50 years old. In captivity however, alligators can live longer, for 60 to 80 years.

9. Make an inference. Why do you think alligators live in Florida and Louisiana?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

A cloud is made up of a large collection of very tiny droplets of water or ice crystals. These droplets are so tiny and light that they can float in the air. Clouds are formed when warm air heats water and changes it into water vapor. As this water evaporates, it rises.

Eventually some of the water vapor condenses around tiny pieces of dust that are floating in the air. When billions of these droplets come together, they become a cloud.

10. List two types of droplets that can make up clouds.

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**Reasons and Evidence**

It's important to be prepared before an earthquake strikes. First, find a sturdy piece of furniture to get under so nothing can fall on you. Practice DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON! This means to drop under something sturdy, hold on, and protect your eyes by pressing your face against your arm. If you live in an earthquake area, you should prepare a first aid kit for your home. By preparing before a disaster strikes, you have a much greater chance of staying safe.

11. What reason did the author give for preparing ahead of time?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Egypt is an extremely dry country in Africa and receives only about an inch of rain each year. Without the Nile River, all of Egypt would be a desert. Each summer however, the Nile River rises because of rains from the south in Ethiopia. Floods cover Egypt's river's valleys, allowing trees, plants, and crops to grow and to help animals survive. Many interesting animals can be found in Egypt including cheetahs, hyenas, crocodiles, and cobras.

12. Cause and effect: What is the effect of the river rising?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Hurricanes are huge storms that can be up to 600 miles across, have strong winds at speeds of 75 to 200 mph and usually last for over a week. Hurricanes start over a warm ocean where they get energy from the quickly evaporating water. Spiraling storm winds move the hurricanes around an "eye". The eye is fairly calm, with light winds and mild weather. Hurricanes lose energy and eventually stop over land although they cause much damage before they stop.

13. What reason do hurricanes stop when they come over land?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

The heaviest land animals in North America are the bison, which are often called buffaloes. Bison are about five to six feet tall at their shoulders and can weigh over a ton. Despite their size, bison can run very quickly, up to 40 miles per hour (faster than some racehorses). Bison once covered the Great Plains and much of North America, and were important to the Plains Indians, who used the animal for meat, clothing, homes, tools and more.

14. What reason is it surprising that bison can run quickly?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Japan is made up of 4,000 islands, so it is an archipelago (a group of islands). This country can be found in Asia, near North Korea and China. Japan has four main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. Most of Japan is covered by mountains. The Japanese Alps run down the center of the largest island, Honshu. The highest peak in Japan is Mount Fuji, which is a cone-shaped volcano. Mt. Fuji is considered sacred by many Japanese.

15. Give proof that Japan is truly an archipelago.

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**Reasons and Evidence**

A wildfire is called by many names such as a wildland fire, forest fire, vegetation fire, grass fire, or hill fire.

Wildfires are uncontrolled fires often occurring in natural areas, but can also affect houses or agriculture. Common causes of wildfires include lightning, human carelessness and arson (intentional setting). Heat waves, droughts, and climate changes can also cause wildfires but most wildfires (4 out of 5) are caused by people.

16 Cause and effect: What is the effect of the river rising?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Hail is formed when small water droplets are lifted up into the sky by a thunderstorm's updraft (air moving up). These water droplets are lifted so high that they freeze into ice and become hail. Once the hail becomes heavy, it starts to fall. If the smaller hailstones get caught in an updraft again, water covers them and they get lifted back into the sky. There the water freezes and the hail gets bigger. This process repeats itself until the hail is too heavy to go back up.

18. What type of wind is needed for hail to form?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Sweden is located in an area of northern Europe called Scandinavia. Large forests cover half of the country and over 100,000 lakes dot the landscape.

Sweden's Arctic north is called the "land of the midnight sun," because during the summer months, the sun never sets. In the winter time, which lasts until May, the nights are long and the days are short. In the fall and spring, there are spectacular light shows known as the "aurora borealis," or "northern lights."

17. List two bits of evidence which describe the landscape of Sweden.

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and is called the Red Planet due to its iron rich soil. For several years, two Mars Exploration Rovers have been studying Mars closely. The rovers discovered that Mars has evidence of volcanoes, plate tectonics, and liquid water. It even has polar ice caps, with water in the north and solid carbon dioxide in the south. But Mars is very different from Earth. It has only 40% of our gravity and an atmosphere made of carbon dioxide.

19. How do we have so much information about Mars?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Bullfrogs are amphibians, which means they spend their entire lives in or near water. Bullfrogs live in freshwater ponds, lakes, and marshes. Males are protective of their territory and guard it against other males, even wrestling other bullfrogs to defend it.

Bullfrogs are nocturnal hunters, leaping at their prey with open mouths. Their prey includes all kinds of insects, mice, snakes, fish, and other small creatures.

20 What proof does the author give to say that bullfrogs are protective of their territory?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Jupiter is the largest planet in our Solar System. Its mass is over 300 times the mass of the Earth, but it is still tiny compared to the sun. Scientists call Jupiter a Jovian planet, which means a gas giant. Gas giants aren't made entirely of solid rock like rocky planets. Jupiter has some rock at its core, but it is very little when compared to the whole planet. Besides a small amount of rock, Jupiter is made of very dense gases that have become liquids.

21. Make an inference. Is Earth a Jovian planet?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

China is a large country in Asia with varied landscapes including mountains, high plateaus, sandy deserts, and dense forests. One-third of China is covered by mountains. The tallest mountain on Earth, Mount Everest, sits on the border between China and Nepal.

China also has thousands of rivers. One of the rivers, the Yangtze, is the world's third largest river. Because of its diverse habitats, hundreds of species of animals and plants can be found in China.

22. For what reason are there so many different species of plants and animals in China?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

There are two main types of camels. Bactrian camels have two humps on their backs where they store fat. The second type are Arabian camels, called dromedaries and they have only one hump. Both of these types of camels use their stored fat as energy and water when they are far away from food and a freshwater source. They can stand harsh desert conditions for long periods of time because of the way they store fat and water.

23. What is the main difference between Bactrian camels and dromedaries?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

A skeletal system is important for a number of reasons. Bones provide protection. Your skull for example protects your very important brain. Your ribs protect most of your internal organs like your heart and lungs.

Your skeletal system also provides support. Without bones, you would be a blob of water-filled tissues. Bones provide a framework for your whole body. Finally, bones work with muscles to help you move.

24 What three reasons is the skeletal system important?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

A tornado is a violent rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. The strongest tornadoes are extremely destructive with wind speeds of up to 300 mph. Although they last from several seconds to about ten minutes, they can destroy large buildings, uproot trees and pick up vehicles hundreds of yards. They are also known to drive straw into trees. In an average year, there are approximately 1,000 tornadoes in the United States.

26. Destroying buildings, uprooting trees and picking up vehicles are evidence of what?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Bald eagles have been the national symbol of the United States since 1782. Female bald eagles are slightly bigger than males and have bodies that are 3 feet tall.

Their wingspan is about 8 feet across. Mothers lay eggs in the top of tall trees in nests called aeries. Baby eagles, called eaglets, are born light gray and then turn brown.

When they are 4 to 5 years old, eagles develop their distinctive white heads and tails. In the wild, they can live to be 35 years old or more.

25. Make an inference. Why do eagles make their nests at the top of tall trees?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

A star is a huge ball of plasma, made from hydrogen and helium that gives off light. The stars you see in the night sky may be a few hundred light years away or thousands of light years away. The sun, our closest star, is the center of our solar system and all the planets revolve around it. Not all stars have solar systems spinning around them though. Some stars are all by themselves, while other stars have a companion star nearby. These "twin" stars are called binary stars.

27. List two pieces of information about the sun.

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Although Australia has many natural resources and fertile land, more than one-third of Australia is desert, much of it found in the famous outback, in the center of Australia. The outback is known for scorching temperatures, little water, and almost no vegetation.

Most Australian cities and farms are near the coast, where the climate is more comfortable. In the northeast part of Australia, there are dense rainforests. l

28. List three reasons the outback would be a difficult place to live.

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Costa Rica is a small country in Central America. It is filled with tropical rainforests and is home to over 2,000 species of trees and 9,000 different kinds of flowering plants. This includes over 200 species of reptiles, most of which are snakes. In Costa Rica you can see brightly colored toads and frogs, including the poison arrow frog.

The country is also home to hundreds of mammals including bats, and insects, such as butterflies and leaf- cutter ants.

30. Why do you think there are so many different species of plants and animals in Costa Rica?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Starfish are echinoderms, which means they have a spiny structure on the outside. On the underside of a starfish, you can see hundreds of little tubes on each arm. Those tubes can attach to an object, suck in, and help the creature move. The tube feet are very helpful when it's time to eat. Starfish use those little tubes to attach to the shell of their prey. Since the suction is so strong, they can slowly open the shell of the mussel, for example and eat the insides.

29. When are the starfish's tube feet especially helpful?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

Beavers are the largest rodents in North America and the second largest in the world, behind the South American capybara. Beavers are powerful swimmers that can swim underwater for up to 15 minutes. Beavers have waterproof fur, a paddle-like tail, front feet that are nimble, and webbed hind feet that make them well suited to living on either the land or in water. On land, the beaver's tail helps it to sit up and in the water, it acts like a rudder.

31. Which part of the beaver's body is helpful on land and in the water?

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**Reasons and Evidence**

An ant's head is very interesting. Ants have compound eyes like flies, which help them see movement very easily. Ants have two feelers to help them communicate about where to find food. An ant also has two strong pinchers for carrying food, for digging and for defending themselves. Just inside an ant's mouth is a small pocket where ants can store food. Sometimes ants give this food to other ants in need. The trunk of the ant is where all 6 legs are attached. At the end of each leg is a sharp

32. What type of information would ants communicate?

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