

# Reflection Section Answer Guide

**Note to Educator:** The purpose of the Reflection Section questions is to encourage students to think critically about what they have read. The following “answers” are only suggestions to assist you in using these questions in the classroom.

## INTRODUCTION

What are the questions the scientists wanted to answer? *The scientists wanted to determine the amount of time kids are spending outdoors, in which outdoor activities kids participate, and the reasons kids are not spending more time outdoors.*

If you were a scientist wanting to learn about kids’ time outdoors, how would you go about gathering information? *A variety of answers are possible for this question. Encourage students to come up with ideas and discuss the advantages/disadvantages of each idea. Some possible ways include a questionnaire, online social media, Web surveys, interviews, and phone surveys.*

Why do you think understanding kids’ time outdoors would help recreation managers? *Recreation managers provide facilities and activities for people who like to do things outdoors. If managers better understand what kids like to do outdoors, they can do a better job of providing facilities and activities for kids.*

## METHODS

Why would the scientists not want the results to be biased? How might the results of the survey be affected if the research were biased? *The scientists wanted the results to be unbiased because biased results can affect the survey in a negative way. Biased research usually produces results that are not accurate. For example, if the survey was biased by selecting more girls than boys, the results would be biased towards girls and would not allow for an accurate comparison across genders.*

What did the demographic information enable the scientists to compare? *The demographic information enabled scientists to compare results among different groups, such as by age, gender, and ethnicity. They compared outdoor activities, for example, between boys and girls.*

Why did the scientists have to speak with a proxy for kids under 16 years old? *Students will have their own answers to this question. In class, discuss why students*

*think kids under 16 are not allowed to answer questions in a Government survey. One reason is that children under 16 are protected under law. The class may also discuss why kids under 16 are protected by law.*

## FINDINGS

Are you surprised by the results of the study? How do they compare with you and your friends? Discuss with your class whether you believe these results are similar to or different from your time outdoors. *Students will have individual answers to this question. Some students will be surprised by the results, while others may not. A brief discussion among classmates will enable students to determine if the results of the National Kids Survey are similar to their own time spent outdoors.*

Do you think technology affects the amount of time you spend outdoors each day? Estimate how many hours a day you spend indoors watching TV or DVDs, playing video games, or spending time on the computer. Compare these hours with how many hours a day you spend outdoors. *Students will have individual answers to this question. They should, however, suspect that technology may affect the amount of time they spend outdoors each day, particularly if they have a computer or TV in their bedroom.*

## DISCUSSION

Should kids be encouraged to spend more time outdoors? Why? *Students will have individual answers to this question. A brief discussion among classmates will enable students to consider whether kids should be encouraged to spend more time outdoors.*

Do you spend more or less time outdoors than you did when you were younger? Why? *Students will have individual answers to this question. Regardless of the answer, encourage your students to examine their amount of play time to determine why they spend more or less time outdoors than they did when they were younger.*