

Lesson Plan

Examining Evidence

Book: Bryce Harper

Series: Biggest Names in Sports

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice identifying the evidence an author uses to support claims, both throughout a large section of text as well as within particular paragraphs.

Supplies

- *Bryce Harper*
- Examining Evidence worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Bryce Harper* book, or assign it to the students to read on their own.

Activity

Have the students turn to Chapter 2 (“Superstar in the Making”). This chapter describes Bryce Harper’s rise to fame. The author makes several statements about Harper’s success and talent. In this lesson, the students will examine the evidence the author uses to support these statements. Give each student an Examining Evidence worksheet, and ask them to use specific information from the book to answer each question.

Evaluation

Did the students correctly identify facts and evidence that supported the author’s statements, both throughout the chapter and within specific paragraphs?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading informational texts standards, grade 5 (RI 5.8).

Examining Evidence

Chapter 2 of *Bryce Harper: Baseball Star* describes Harper's rise to fame. Answer the following questions to evaluate the evidence the author uses to support his statements about Harper's talent and success.

1. Page 9 says, "When he was a boy growing up in Las Vegas, Nevada, it was clear from early on that Bryce Harper was special." What are six facts or statistics from this chapter that the author uses to support this statement?

2. Page 10 says that "Bryce excelled in youth baseball events all over the country." What evidence does the author give in this paragraph to support this statement?

3. Page 13 says that Bryce "dominated the 2008 Youth Pan American Championships in Veracruz, Mexico." What are three facts or statistics that the author uses in this paragraph to support this statement?

4. Page 14 says, "When he joined the Southern Nevada team, Bryce was the age of most high school juniors. It didn't matter." What are three facts or statistics that the author uses in this paragraph to support this statement?

Examining Evidence (ANSWER KEY)

Chapter 2 of *Bryce Harper: Baseball Star* describes Harper's rise to fame. Answer the following questions to evaluate the evidence the author uses to support his statements about Harper's talent and success.

1. Page 9 says, "When he was a boy growing up in Las Vegas, Nevada, it was clear from early on that Bryce Harper was special." What are six facts or statistics from this chapter that the author uses to support this statement?

Possible answers include:

At just three years old, Bryce excelled against his 6-year-old competitors (p. 9).

He did very well in baseball events all over the country (p. 10).

He attracted major league scouts when he was just 13 years old (p. 11).

As a high school freshman, he hit a home run longer than the longest home run in major league history (p. 12).

He played very well for Team USA in the 2008 Pan American Championships (p. 13).

His batting average as a high school sophomore was .569 (p. 13).

Even though he was just the age of a junior, he led his team's stolen bases and hit many home runs as part of the College of Southern Nevada team (p. 14).

2. Page 10 says that "Bryce excelled in youth baseball events all over the country." What evidence does the author give in this paragraph to support this statement?

Answer: He explains that at one tournament in Alabama, Bryce got a hit each of the 12 times he came to bat, and 11 of the hits were home runs.

3. Page 13 says that Bryce "dominated the 2008 Youth Pan American Championships in Veracruz, Mexico." What are three facts or statistics that the author uses in this paragraph to support this statement?

Possible answers include:

Bryce batted .571.

He hit four home runs in just eight games.

He stole six bases in just six tries.

He pitched for the team, too.

4. Page 14 says, "When he joined the Southern Nevada team, Bryce was the age of most high school juniors. It didn't matter." What are three facts or statistics that the author uses in this paragraph to support this statement?

Possible answers include:

Bryce batted .442.

He got 29 home runs in 62 games.

He led his team with 18 stolen bases.

He hit four home runs in a regional game.