

The Lunchroom Investigators

TEACHER ANSWER KEY · CENTRAL IDEA

Use the evidence below to guide discussion. Accept accurate explanations in students' own words.

1. D — Collecting evidence and testing changes can help solve a problem.

The team observes, asks questions, tests a change, and compares results before deciding what to do next.

2. B — They explain reasons behind the counts and guide a possible solution.

Counts identify the discarded apples, while classmates' explanations help the team choose slicing as a useful trial.

3. C — To show how the team checked whether its change helped.

Comparing leftovers after the trial provides evidence about whether sliced apples reduce waste in this setting.

4. A — The team uses the same investigation process for a new problem.

The next investigation repeats the evidence-based process instead of guessing that one solution fits every problem.

Teaching note: Distinguish the topic, food waste, from the broader implied idea about using evidence to solve problems. The school and investigation are fictional.

Discussion: The author does not state the central idea in one sentence. Explain it using details from at least two paragraphs.