Words That Grow

Choose precise words for a garden report.

3.LF.17 "Use grade-level academic and domain-specific vocabulary in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each bold garden word, then underline the short definition between the commas right after it. Notice how the writer uses each word to describe the garden.

Our Class Garden Report

1. On Monday, our class built a small garden beside the school steps. We spread **compost**, a mix of rotted leaves and fruit peels, over the soil. Compost adds nutrients that help plants grow. We used a shovel to blend it into the top layer of dirt. Before planting, we used our eyes to observe that the soil felt dry and crumbly. We wrote that detail in our garden notes.

2. Next, we planted each **seedling**, a young plant that has begun to grow, in its own hole. We set the small plants far enough apart to leave room for their roots. Then we watered the soil near each stem, not the leaves. I predict that the plants near the sunny fence will grow faster than those in the shade. We will compare their heights each week.

3. Last, we spread **mulch**, a layer of material placed on top of soil, around the plants to slow water loss. We used dry leaves for our mulch. A week later, we checked the garden again. The soil under the leaves still felt damp, but the uncovered path felt dry. That observation was evidence that the covered soil held water longer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Complete this garden report sentence with a precise word from paragraph 1: "We mixed ____ into the soil to add nutrients."

2. Replace "a young plant" with one precise word from paragraph 2. Write the new sentence: "We placed a young plant in each hole."

3. Complete this sentence with a precise word from paragraph 3: "We used dry leaves as ____ to slow water loss."

4. Use the word *evidence* in one sentence to explain why the writer thinks the covered soil held water longer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you make a bird feeder from a clean carton. Write three sentences about your plan. Use *predict* and *observe* correctly, and name one specific part of your feeder.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each bold garden word, then underline the short definition between the commas right after it. Notice how the writer uses each word to describe the garden. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Complete this garden report sentence with a precise word from paragraph 1: "We mixed ____ into the soil to add nutrients."	**compost**
2	Replace "a young plant" with one precise word from paragraph 2. Write the new sentence: "We placed a young plant in each hole."	**We placed a seedling in each hole.**
3	Complete this sentence with a precise word from paragraph 3: "We used dry leaves as ____ to slow water loss."	**mulch**
4	Use the word *evidence* in one sentence to explain why the writer thinks the covered soil held water longer.	**The damp soil under the leaves was evidence that the covered soil held water longer.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I will add a perch below the opening in my carton feeder. I predict birds will stand on the perch to eat seeds. I will observe the feeder each morning to see which birds visit.

For question 4, accept a sentence that uses evidence to connect the damp soil under the leaves with the writer's conclusion. For Your Turn, check for three sentences, correct use of predict and observe, and a specific feeder part.