Questions Beneath the Rain

Find the main questions an article answers

4.LF.20.b "List the main questions answered by an informational article."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that helps you identify a main question the paragraph answers. Number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3.

A Garden Built for Rain

1. After a storm, water may rush across a sidewalk and into a street drain. A rain garden gives some of that water another place to go. It is a shallow dip in the ground filled with plants that can handle both wet and dry days. People often plant one where water flows off a roof, driveway, or sidewalk. Its curved edge helps guide the water toward the dip.

2. When rain reaches the garden, it spreads out instead of racing away. The water slowly sinks through loose soil. Plant roots help keep the soil from washing away. Some of the water reaches deeper ground, while the plants take in some through their roots. After a heavy storm, the garden may hold a puddle for a short time, but it is not meant to be a pond.

3. Rain gardens do more than slow water. As water moves through the soil, some dirt and other bits can be trapped before the water reaches a stream. Flowers in the garden can also give bees and butterflies food. People must choose plants that fit their local weather and care for them while they grow. With the right care, a rain garden can help a neighborhood handle storms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What big question does the whole article answer? Write it as a question.

2. What main question does paragraph 1 answer about a rain garden itself?

3. What main question does paragraph 2 answer about rainwater?

4. What main question does paragraph 3 answer about the garden's value?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a familiar tool. Write two factual sentences about how it works, then write one main question your sentences answer.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.LF.20.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that helps you identify a main question the paragraph answers. Number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What big question does the whole article answer? Write it as a question.	**What is a rain garden, and how does it help a neighborhood?**
2	What main question does paragraph 1 answer about a rain garden itself?	**What is a rain garden?**
3	What main question does paragraph 2 answer about rainwater?	**What happens to rainwater in a rain garden?**
4	What main question does paragraph 3 answer about the garden's value?	**How can a rain garden help a neighborhood?**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A broom has a long handle and stiff bristles. People sweep the bristles across a floor to gather dirt into a pile. Main question: How does a broom help people clean a floor?

Accept other clearly worded main questions supported by the assigned paragraph or whole article. For Your Turn, the question must be answered by the student's two factual sentences.