Rain Garden Clues

Find details that support a text's main idea.

4.LF.21.c "Summarize the key supporting details by citing evidence from a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one key detail in each paragraph that explains how a rain garden works or why it is useful, then number the details 1, 2, and 3.

A Garden That Catches Rain

1. A rain garden is a shallow planting bed that catches rain from roofs, sidewalks, or streets. It is not a pond. A dip in the ground holds water for a short time, and loose soil lets the water sink in. Deep-rooted plants help keep the soil open. Many schools and parks put rain gardens near paved areas, where water runs off quickly.

2. During a heavy rain, water can rush across pavement and collect in big puddles. A rain garden slows that rush by holding some of the runoff. As water sinks through the soil, the soil traps bits of dirt. Plant roots take in some nutrients carried by the water. Less dirty water then flows into storm drains, which often lead to streams.

3. A rain garden needs care to keep working. People pull weeds so chosen plants have room to grow, and they remove litter that could block the flow of water. When gardeners choose plants suited to local rain, those plants may need little extra watering once they are settled. Flowers in a rain garden can also feed bees and butterflies between storms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the shape and soil of a rain garden help it catch rain? Use two details from paragraph 1.

2. How can a rain garden help when rain runs across pavement? Use two details from paragraph 2.

3. How can a rain garden help keep streams cleaner? Use two details from paragraph 2.

4. Why does a rain garden need care? Use two details from paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three- or four-sentence summary explaining why a rain garden can be useful in a neighborhood. State the main idea and include at least two supporting details from different paragraphs, naming each paragraph you use.

ANSWER KEY

Rain Garden Clues

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.21.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one key detail in each paragraph that explains how a rain garden works or why it is useful, then number the details 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the shape and soil of a rain garden help it catch rain? Use two details from paragraph 1.	**The dip in the ground holds water for a short time, and loose soil lets the water sink in.**
2	How can a rain garden help when rain runs across pavement? Use two details from paragraph 2.	**It holds some runoff and slows the rush of water that can collect in big puddles.**
3	How can a rain garden help keep streams cleaner? Use two details from paragraph 2.	**The soil traps bits of dirt, and plant roots take in some nutrients. Less dirty water flows into storm drains, which often lead to streams.**
4	Why does a rain garden need care? Use two details from paragraph 3.	**Pulling weeds gives chosen plants room to grow, and removing litter keeps it from blocking the flow of water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain gardens help neighborhoods manage rainwater and keep it cleaner. Paragraph 1 explains that loose soil lets collected rain sink into the ground. Paragraph 2 says the soil traps bits of dirt, so less dirty water flows into storm drains that often lead to streams.

Accept accurate summaries that state a main idea and cite at least two relevant details from different paragraphs. Students may choose different details than those in the sample.