Where Details Belong

A model for introducing a topic and grouping related ideas

4.LF.33.a "Introduce a research topic clearly and group related ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the research topic, then circle two details in each paragraph that belong with that paragraph's main idea.

Rain Gardens in Neighborhoods

1 Rain gardens help neighborhoods handle rainy days. A rain garden is a shallow dip in the ground filled with plants. People often put one where water runs off a roof, sidewalk, or parking lot. Instead of rushing straight into a street drain, some of that water flows into the garden. Its bowl-like shape gives the water a place to collect for a short time.

2 The ground beneath a rain garden helps manage the collected water. Loose soil lets water soak in slowly, and plant roots help keep the soil in place. Gardeners often choose plants that can handle both wet days and dry days. Water that sinks into the ground is less likely to race across pavement. This is one way a rain garden can reduce puddles nearby.

3 Rain gardens can also make a neighborhood more welcoming to animals. Flowers may offer nectar to bees and butterflies. Some birds eat seeds from the plants or search among the leaves for insects. A garden does not need to be large to provide these small food sources. When people choose different kinds of plants, the garden can offer food during more than one season.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence clearly introduces the research topic? Copy it.

2. What idea groups the details about soil, roots, and plants in paragraph 2?

3. What idea brings together the details about flowers, birds, and seeds in paragraph 3?

4. A writer wants to add this detail: “A rain garden can be planted beside a school walkway.” Which paragraph should include it? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a place you could research, such as a playground or a library. Write one paragraph that clearly introduces your topic, then group two details about one feature and two details about a different feature.

ANSWER KEY

Where Details Belong

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.33.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the research topic, then circle two details in each paragraph that belong with that paragraph's main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence clearly introduces the research topic? Copy it.	**Rain gardens help neighborhoods handle rainy days.**
2	What idea groups the details about soil, roots, and plants in paragraph 2?	**The ground and plants help manage collected rainwater.**
3	What idea brings together the details about flowers, birds, and seeds in paragraph 3?	**Rain gardens can provide food for animals.**
4	A writer wants to add this detail: "A rain garden can be planted beside a school walkway." Which paragraph should include it? Explain why.	**Paragraph 1, because it gives examples of places where people put rain gardens.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school library gives students ways to read and study. Its shelves hold stories that students can borrow. It also has books that explain real topics, such as space. Quiet tables give students room to read. At those tables, students can work on class projects with a partner.

For the marking task, accept any two details in each paragraph that support its main idea. For Your Turn, look for a clear opening topic and two pairs of related details placed together.