Rainwater Word Paths

Notice how precise words and connecting phrases explain a rain garden.

5.LF.14 "Write using grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases accurately, including those that signal contrasting ideas, additional information, and other logical relationships."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words or phrases that name parts or processes of the rain garden. Circle three words or phrases that connect ideas.

Where the Rain Goes

1 When rain hits the roof at Maple School, it flows through a downspout toward a shallow garden. This moving water is called runoff because it travels over hard surfaces instead of soaking into soil. The garden's basin catches some of that runoff. Native plants grow in the basin, where their roots reach deep into loose soil. This setup helps rain soak in rather than rush across the playground.

2 During a light shower, the basin holds water long enough for it to seep into the ground. The soil acts like a sponge, while plant roots help create spaces for water to move through. In addition, leaves slow falling raindrops before they strike the soil. That gentler impact can reduce erosion, which is the wearing away of soil by water or wind.

3 In an ordinary shower, much of the water soaks into the basin. However, during a very heavy downpour, the basin may fill faster than the soil can absorb water. The gardeners leave a low overflow path that guides extra water away from the walkway. As a result, water is less likely to collect where students walk. The path cannot stop every flood, but it gives excess water a safer route.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does *runoff* mean? Why is it more exact than *water*?

2. Which phrase in paragraph 2 adds another way plants affect rainwater? What information does it add?

3. Why does *however* fit the start of the second sentence in paragraph 3 better than *also*?

4. What relationship does *as a result* show between the overflow path and the walkway?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences about a different way your school could handle rainwater. Use at least two accurate rainwater terms from the passage, one phrase that adds information, and one phrase that shows a contrast or a result.

ANSWER KEY

Rainwater Word Paths

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words or phrases that name parts or processes of the rain garden. Circle three words or phrases that connect ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does *runoff* mean? Why is it more exact than *water*?	**Runoff is water that travels over hard surfaces instead of soaking into soil. The word names how the water moves.**
2	Which phrase in paragraph 2 adds another way plants affect rainwater? What information does it add?	**"In addition" adds that leaves slow raindrops before they hit the soil, which can reduce erosion.**
3	Why does *however* fit the start of the second sentence in paragraph 3 better than *also*?	**"However" signals a contrast: water soaks in during an ordinary shower, but the basin may fill too quickly during a heavy downpour.**
4	What relationship does *as a result* show between the overflow path and the walkway?	**It shows a result: the path guides extra water away, so water is less likely to collect on the walkway.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school could place a rain barrel beneath a downspout to catch runoff from the roof. We could use the stored water on garden plants. In addition, a screen over the barrel's opening could keep leaves and mosquitoes out. However, the barrel would need an overflow pipe to direct extra water away from the building.

Accept any four accurate rain-garden terms for the marking job, such as downspout, runoff, basin, roots, soil, and erosion. For the writing task, check that both connecting phrases express the relationships the student intends.