Where Rain Goes

Trace how a rain garden changes the path of runoff.

5.LF.18 "Explain the relationships among events, people, or concepts in informational texts, supported by textual evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two sentences that show a cause and effect. Then number three linked events from the paved lot to a change in the stream to show how the events connect.

A Garden for Rain

1. When rain falls on a parking lot, it cannot soak through the pavement. Water rushes across the hard surface, picking up bits of dirt and oil. In many towns, a storm drain carries this runoff straight to a nearby stream. A sudden flow can wear away stream banks. The dirt and oil can also make the water less healthy for fish and insects.

2. To slow that flow, neighbors can build a rain garden beside the lot. They dig a shallow dip and fill it with soil that lets water pass through. A curb opening guides runoff into the dip instead of directly into a drain. The garden holds some water while it soaks into the ground. As a result, less water reaches the stream at once.

3. Native plants add another layer of help. Their roots make spaces in the soil where water can move, and the plants take up some water as they grow. Neighbors must pull weeds and clear leaves from the curb opening so water can enter. During a very heavy storm, the garden may fill up. Extra water then flows into the storm drain, but the garden has still held some runoff back.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can pavement in the parking lot lead to worn stream banks? Explain the steps using evidence from the passage.

2. How does the curb opening change what happens to runoff from the lot?

3. How do native plants help water move through or leave the rain garden? Give two ways from the passage.

4. Why does clearing leaves from the curb opening matter to the rain garden?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A neighbor says rain gardens are useless because water can still reach a storm drain during a very heavy storm. Write four sentences responding to the neighbor, and use two short quotes from the passage to explain how the garden can still affect the stream.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rain Goes

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.18

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two sentences that show a cause and effect. Then number three linked events from the paved lot to a change in the stream to show how the events connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can pavement in the parking lot lead to worn stream banks? Explain the steps using evidence from the passage.	**Rain cannot soak through pavement, so it rushes to a storm drain and then to the stream. The sudden flow can wear away stream banks.**
2	How does the curb opening change what happens to runoff from the lot?	**It guides runoff into the rain garden instead of directly into a drain, giving some water time to soak into the ground.**
3	How do native plants help water move through or leave the rain garden? Give two ways from the passage.	**Their roots make spaces where water can move through the soil, and the plants take up some water as they grow.**
4	Why does clearing leaves from the curb opening matter to the rain garden?	**Clearing leaves lets runoff enter the garden, where some of it can be held and soak into the ground.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The neighbor is right that extra water can reach the drain in a very heavy storm, but that does not make the garden useless. The passage says the garden "holds some water while it soaks into the ground." Because of this delay, "less water reaches the stream at once," which can reduce the sudden flow that wears away stream banks. Even when the garden fills, it has already held back some runoff.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For Part 3, look for four sentences, two short quotes, and a clear explanation of why the overflow does not erase the garden's effect.