Where Rain Goes

Mark key ideas and prepare a spoken summary.

5.LF.9.b "Verbally summarize information read aloud or presented in diverse media and formats."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Listen as a partner reads the tour aloud, then underline the main idea in each paragraph and number three steps the water takes. Use your marks to say each answer aloud before you write it.

A Schoolyard Rain Garden

1. Welcome to our schoolyard audio tour. After a hard rain, water used to rush across the blacktop and into a street drain. It carried bits of soil and litter along the way. Last fall, students and gardeners built a rain garden beside the blacktop. This shallow, planted dip catches some of the runoff before it reaches the street. It is not a pond.

2. Here is what happens during a storm. Water flows from the pavement into the garden, where it spreads out and sinks into loose soil. Mulch slows the water, and plant roots help make spaces in the soil. As the water passes through, soil and plants can trap some pollutants. The garden does not catch every drop, but it can reduce the amount of runoff reaching the drain.

3. On sunny days, the garden may look like an ordinary patch of flowers and grasses. Its plants are chosen to handle both wet and dry conditions. Students check for litter and pull weeds so the plants have room to grow. After most storms, the water sinks away rather than sitting for days. By holding and absorbing runoff, the garden helps keep nearby streets and streams cleaner.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In one sentence, summarize why the rain garden was built.

2. Summarize the water's path during a storm in two sentences.

3. In one sentence, summarize how students help the garden keep working.

4. Name one detail you could leave out of a short spoken summary of the tour. Explain why it is less important than the garden's purpose.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence script for a school announcement, then say it aloud to a partner. In your own words, explain why the rain garden was built, how runoff moves through it, what students do, and why the garden matters.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Listen as a partner reads the tour aloud, then underline the main idea in each paragraph and number three steps the water takes. Use your marks to say each answer aloud before you write it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In one sentence, summarize why the rain garden was built.	**It was built to catch some runoff before it carries soil and litter into the street drain.**
2	Summarize the water's path during a storm in two sentences.	**Runoff flows from the pavement into the rain garden and spreads out. It then sinks into the loose soil, where some pollutants can be trapped.**
3	In one sentence, summarize how students help the garden keep working.	**Students remove litter and weeds so the garden's plants have room to grow.**
4	Name one detail you could leave out of a short spoken summary of the tour. Explain why it is less important than the garden's purpose.	**The garden looks like a patch of flowers and grasses on sunny days. Its appearance is less important than how it reduces runoff.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school added a rain garden because storm water used to carry litter and soil toward a street drain. Now runoff enters the planted dip, slows down, and soaks into loose soil instead of all rushing away. Students remove litter and weeds to keep its plants growing. This small garden helps reduce runoff and may keep nearby streams cleaner.

Accept accurate summaries in students' own words. For the spoken announcement, check that all four requested ideas are present and that the sequence of the water's movement is clear.