Where Rain Goes

Trace how a recommendation uses evidence and precise language.

6.CL.7.b "Write informative or explanatory texts with an organized structure and a formal style, incorporating a focused point of view, a clear purpose, credible evidence, and technical word meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's recommendation, circle two statements supported by named sources, and label each paragraph P for proposal, E for explanation, or A for action to show how the text is organized.

A Place for Stormwater

1 After a storm, water races across the pavement beside a school instead of soaking into the ground. That moving water is called runoff. A school should consider placing a rain garden near a paved area because it can slow runoff before the water reaches a storm drain. A rain garden is a shallow, planted hollow that collects water from nearby hard surfaces. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explains that rain gardens let runoff soak into soil. This design can reduce the amount of water left on pavement.

2 The location matters as much as the plants. The U.S. Geological Survey explains that impervious surfaces, such as asphalt, keep rain from entering soil and increase runoff. Impervious means water cannot pass through easily. A rain garden belongs downhill from the paved area, where water already flows, but away from building foundations. Its soil must drain well enough that water does not stand for long periods. Native plants adapted to local conditions can help hold soil in place, while their roots create spaces through which water can move.

3 Building a garden does not end the work. Staff and students would need to remove litter, check for blocked inlets, and replace plants that do not survive. The EPA notes that rain gardens can help filter pollutants from runoff before it enters nearby waterways. Filter means to trap or remove some unwanted materials as water passes through soil and plant roots; it does not mean making the water safe to drink. For these reasons, a well-placed, maintained rain garden offers a practical way for a school to manage stormwater.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the writer recommend, and what purpose does the writer give for that recommendation?

2. How does the evidence from the U.S. Geological Survey support the recommendation?

3. How does the meaning of impervious help you understand the writer's choice of location for the garden?

4. How does the final paragraph strengthen the recommendation without claiming that a rain garden solves every water problem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 5 to 6 sentence paragraph proposing a way to reduce runoff at a school without building a rain garden. Give your purpose, use evidence attributed to a named source in the passage, define impervious or runoff, include one practical step, and end with a formal conclusion.

ANSWER KEY # Where Rain Goes

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's recommendation, circle two statements supported by named sources, and label each paragraph P for proposal, E for explanation, or A for action to show how the text is organized. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the writer recommend, and what purpose does the writer give for that recommendation?	**The writer recommends a rain garden near a paved area to slow runoff before it reaches a storm drain.**
2	How does the evidence from the U.S. Geological Survey support the recommendation?	**It explains that asphalt keeps rain from entering soil and increases runoff, showing why the school should manage water from pavement.**
3	How does the meaning of impervious help you understand the writer's choice of location for the garden?	**Because water cannot easily pass through pavement, the garden should be downhill from it, where the runoff flows.**
4	How does the final paragraph strengthen the recommendation without claiming that a rain garden solves every water problem?	**It identifies maintenance the garden would need and explains that filtering pollutants does not make the water safe to drink.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school should replace a small section of unused asphalt with a planted strip to reduce runoff. The U.S. Geological Survey explains that impervious surfaces, including asphalt, prevent rain from entering soil and increase runoff. Impervious means water cannot pass through easily. Removing pavement would give rain a path into the ground and reduce the water flowing toward a storm drain. Staff should check for underground utilities before making changes. This limited project offers a practical way to manage stormwater.

Accept other reasonable paragraph labels if students can explain each paragraph's role. For the writing task, accept a different feasible runoff plan if the paragraph meets every stated requirement and attributes the evidence accurately.