When Rain Rises

Read for evidence about ways to reduce flooding.

3.15 "Obtain and communicate information on the effectiveness of existing solutions designed to reduce the impact of weather-related hazards."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two flood solutions, circle evidence that each helped, and write 1 and 2 beside a limit of each solution.

Keeping Water Out

1. On a rainy morning, water rushed across the schoolyard toward the library door. Heavy rain can cause flooding when water cannot soak into the ground fast enough. Floodwater can ruin books and make paths unsafe. The school tried two ways to lower the risk: a rain garden beside the path and a row of sandbags in front of the door. Which one helps, and how can we tell?

2. A rain garden is a shallow dip in the ground filled with plants. It catches some rainwater from the path and lets the water soak into the soil. After one hard rain, the caretaker saw water sitting in the garden, while the nearby path had only small puddles. That is a sign the garden helped. During very long storms, it can fill up and water may run past it.

3. Sandbags are bags filled with sand and stacked to form a low wall. Before another storm, the caretaker set them tightly across the library door. Water reached the bags, but the floor inside stayed dry. This shows they helped block the water at the door. Sandbags can leak if there are gaps, and water can flow over them if it gets too high. They protect the door, not the whole yard.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did the caretaker see that suggests the rain garden helped keep water off the path?

2. What evidence shows that the sandbags helped protect the library?

3. Why might the rain garden help less during a very long storm?

4. If water covers a path far from the library door, which solution is more likely to help there? Use the passage to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A park's picnic tables flood during hard rain. Write three sentences: name a solution already used somewhere, explain how it could reduce flooding near the tables, and tell what you would look for after a storm to judge whether it worked.

ANSWER KEY

When Rain Rises

GRADE 3 · 3.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two flood solutions, circle evidence that each helped, and write 1 and 2 beside a limit of each solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the caretaker see that suggests the rain garden helped keep water off the path?	**Water sat in the rain garden, while the nearby path had only small puddles.**
2	What evidence shows that the sandbags helped protect the library?	**Water reached the sandbags, but the library floor stayed dry.**
3	Why might the rain garden help less during a very long storm?	**The garden can fill up, so water may run past it.**
4	If water covers a path far from the library door, which solution is more likely to help there? Use the passage to explain.	**A rain garden near the path is more likely to help because it catches water from the path. The sandbags protect only the library door.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put a rain garden beside the park's picnic area. It could catch water from the path so less water reaches the tables. After a storm, I would look for water in the garden and check whether the ground by the tables stayed dry.

For Part 3, accept a real flood-reducing solution with a reasonable explanation and an observable sign of whether it worked. Students may choose a solution not named in the passage.