Garden Clues

Use details to separate stated facts from logical conclusions.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1 "Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that tell what happened. Circle details that help you infer why the bird visited the garden, then use both kinds of details to answer the questions.

The Garden Visitor

1. At sunset, Maya helped Ranger Ortiz check the trail camera near the community garden. The camera had been attached to an oak tree three days earlier after gardeners found torn lettuce leaves and small holes in the soil. On the path below the tree, Maya noticed three-toed tracks pressed into damp mud. A few pale feathers lay beside the tracks. Ranger Ortiz wrote the time, weather, and location in a notebook before they walked back to the gate.

2. When they returned the next morning, the lettuce bed had not been damaged again. However, the camera's memory card held a blurry image taken at 9:14 p.m. It showed a bird with a long, pointed beak standing near the bed. Ortiz explained that herons usually hunt fish, frogs, and other small animals, not vegetables. He also pointed to a shallow puddle beside the garden fence, where several tiny frogs had gathered after the previous day's rain.

3. Maya looked again at the feathers and tracks. She concluded that the visitor had probably been searching for frogs, not eating lettuce. The gardeners placed a low mesh cover over the beds to keep birds from stepping among the plants. They left a small opening near the puddle, away from the vegetables. Two days later, the lettuce leaves were still whole, and new tracks appeared only near the puddle. Ortiz said their plan seemed to be working.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem caused the gardeners to set up the trail camera? Cite the details that tell you.

2. What can you infer about why the bird came to the garden? Use at least two details from the passage.

3. Which two details show that the gardeners' plan was working?

4. Why did the gardeners leave an opening near the puddle instead of covering that area? Explain your inference with evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 3-4 sentence claim about whether the visitor was probably a heron. Cite at least three specific details from the passage and explain how they support your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Clues

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell what happened. Circle details that help you infer why the bird visited the garden, then use both kinds of details to answer the questions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem caused the gardeners to set up the trail camera? Cite the details that tell you.	**They found torn lettuce leaves and small holes in the soil.**
2	What can you infer about why the bird came to the garden? Use at least two details from the passage.	**The bird probably came to hunt frogs. The image shows a long, pointed beak, Ortiz says herons hunt small animals rather than vegetables, and tiny frogs were gathered by the puddle.**
3	Which two details show that the gardeners' plan was working?	**Two days later, the lettuce leaves were still whole, and new tracks appeared only near the puddle.**
4	Why did the gardeners leave an opening near the puddle instead of covering that area? Explain your inference with evidence.	**They likely wanted the bird to stay near the frogs and away from the vegetables. The opening was near the puddle and away from the vegetable beds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The visitor was probably a heron. The camera image showed a bird with a long, pointed beak. Ortiz explained that herons hunt small animals, and tiny frogs were gathered near the puddle. The bird's tracks later appeared near the puddle instead of the lettuce, which supports the idea that it was hunting frogs.

Accept a reasonable claim that the bird was probably a heron, not a certain identification, when the student supports it with accurate details. Accept other logical conclusions if students cite specific passage evidence and explain the connection.