Garden Comma Crew

See how commas make lists clear in a model text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.2a "Use punctuation to separate items in a series.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every comma that separates items in a series. Underline each complete series so you can see which words or actions belong together.

Building a Pollinator Garden

1. At Maple Grove School, fifth graders planned a small pollinator garden beside the library. They measured the sunny space, drew a map, and chose places for paths. Their goal was to give bees, butterflies, and other pollinators food and shelter. The class learned that pollinators move pollen between flowers, helping many plants make seeds, fruits, and vegetables.

2. First, teams picked plants that could grow in the local climate. They selected purple coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and bee balm for sunny spots. For a damp corner, they chose cardinal flowers, swamp milkweed, and blue flag iris. Each team wrote labels with the plant's name, height, and blooming season. Clear labels would help visitors notice changes during spring, summer, and fall.

3. On planting day, students carried trowels, gloves, watering cans, and mulch to the garden. One group loosened soil, another placed plants, and a third spread mulch around the stems. Afterward, the class added a shallow dish of water, smooth stones, and a few twigs. These features can give small insects places to drink, rest, and hide. The garden became a useful habitat and an outdoor study space.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the series that names the tools students carried to the garden.

2. In the sentence about plant labels, after which two words do commas appear?

3. Copy the three actions that small insects can do. Include the commas.

4. Add commas to this series from the passage: purple coneflowers black-eyed Susans and bee balm

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about preparing for an outdoor activity. In the first sentence, include a series of at least four items. In the second sentence, include a series of three actions. Use commas to separate each series.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Comma Crew

GRADE 5 · L.5.2a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle every comma that separates items in a series. Underline each complete series so you can see which words or actions belong together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the series that names the tools students carried to the garden.	**trowels, gloves, watering cans, and mulch**
2	In the sentence about plant labels, after which two words do commas appear?	**name and height**
3	Copy the three actions that small insects can do. Include the commas.	**drink, rest, and hide**
4	Add commas to this series from the passage: purple coneflowers black-eyed Susans and bee balm	**purple coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and bee balm**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For our creek study, I packed a notebook, a pencil, a hand lens, and a water bottle. Then I observed the bank, sketched a leaf, and recorded my questions.

Accept correctly marked commas that separate words, phrases, or clauses in a series. For Part 3, accept original responses that use two sentences, include the required series, and place commas correctly between the items or actions.