Seeds for Tomorrow

Trace how one text moves from need to proof.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.5 "Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states why backup seeds are needed, circle details that explain the vault's process, and put a star beside the real example that shows its value, so you can track how each paragraph builds the main idea.

The Backup Seed Vault

1 On a windswept Norwegian island, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault stores backup copies of crop seeds from gene banks around the world. Seed collections can be damaged by war, floods, equipment failure, or poor funding. If a local collection is lost, farmers and scientists may lose useful varieties of rice, beans, or wheat. The vault does not replace everyday seed banks. Instead, it provides a secure second copy, protecting choices that future growers may need during changing climates.

2 First, participating seed banks package dried seeds in sealed containers and send them to Svalbard. Workers place the containers in storage rooms carved deep inside frozen rock. The cold, dry conditions slow the seeds' aging, and the surrounding permafrost adds protection if power fails. Each deposit remains the property of the bank that sent it. The vault does not distribute seeds to the public or decide which crops a country should grow in its fields.

3 The vault's value became clear after conflict disrupted the gene bank run by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, often called ICARDA, near Aleppo, Syria. In 2015, ICARDA requested seeds it had stored in Svalbard, the first withdrawal from the vault. The organization used those seeds to rebuild working collections in Lebanon and Morocco. This example shows why a backup is useful: stored seeds can help researchers continue their work after a collection becomes unreachable.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What job does the first paragraph do in the passage's overall structure?

2. How does the second paragraph develop the idea introduced in the first paragraph?

3. Why does the author place the ICARDA example in the third paragraph instead of the first paragraph?

4. How do the three paragraphs work together to develop the main idea of the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a three-paragraph informational text about a system that protects something important, such as a fire drill plan, a museum archive, or a phone backup. Write a heading and one sentence for each paragraph that shows how the sections will build one main idea.

Seeds for Tomorrow

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states why backup seeds are needed, circle details that explain the vault's process, and put a star beside the real example that shows its value, so you can track how each paragraph builds the main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What job does the first paragraph do in the passage's overall structure?	**It introduces the risk of losing seed collections and presents the vault as a backup solution.**
2	How does the second paragraph develop the idea introduced in the first paragraph?	**It explains how seeds are stored, why the storage conditions protect them, and what the vault does not do.**
3	Why does the author place the ICARDA example in the third paragraph instead of the first paragraph?	**After explaining the need and the process, the author uses a real example to show that the backup system worked.**
4	How do the three paragraphs work together to develop the main idea of the passage?	**The text moves from the problem of losing seeds, to the vault's storage process, to evidence that stored seeds can help restore a disrupted collection.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Problem: A city archive holds records that floods or fires could destroy. Protection: Workers scan the records and save encrypted copies on secure servers in another location. Proof: After a storm damages the archive, the digital copies let residents recover needed records.

Accept plans that have three clear sections with a logical progression, such as a problem or need, an explanation of the system, and an example or result. Headings may vary if each section contributes a distinct part of the main idea.