Scraps Become Soil

Notice how headings and details organize an informational model.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2a "Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each heading, underline the sentence that tells the topic and focus, and bracket the related details under each heading to see how the writer organizes information.

Compost at Work

1 **From Scraps to Soil** Our school cafeteria throws away banana peels, apple cores, and other food scraps each day. Instead of sending these scraps to a landfill, the school can compost them. Composting changes certain leftovers into a dark material that helps plants grow. The information below explains what belongs in a compost bin and how the bin becomes useful soil.

2 **What Goes In** A compost bin needs a mix of moist food scraps and dry materials. Fruit and vegetable pieces, coffee grounds, dry leaves, and shredded plain paper can go into the bin. Meat, dairy foods, and oily leftovers should stay out. These foods can make the bin smell bad or attract animals. Keep the materials in this group separate from items that do not compost well.

3 **How Scraps Change** Tiny living things in the bin break down the scraps over time. The bin should be damp, like a squeezed-out sponge, and it needs air. Turning the materials with a garden tool adds air to the pile. When the compost looks dark and crumbly, gardeners can spread it around plants. This finished compost adds organic matter to garden beds.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic and focus does the first paragraph introduce?

2. What general observation in the first paragraph helps explain why composting matters at this school?

3. How is the information under **What Goes In** grouped logically?

4. Which heading would help you find ways to care for the compost bin? Write one detail from that section.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short informational piece about caring for a class plant. Start with one sentence that names the topic and focus, then use two headings with one or two related-detail sentences under each.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each heading, underline the sentence that tells the topic and focus, and bracket the related details under each heading to see how the writer organizes information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic and focus does the first paragraph introduce?	**It introduces composting school food scraps and explains that the text will tell what belongs in a compost bin and how it becomes useful soil.**
2	What general observation in the first paragraph helps explain why composting matters at this school?	**The cafeteria throws away food scraps each day.**
3	How is the information under **What Goes In** grouped logically?	**It first lists materials that can go into the bin, then lists materials that should stay out and explains why.**
4	Which heading would help you find ways to care for the compost bin? Write one detail from that section.	**How Scraps Change. The bin should be damp and have air, or turning the materials adds air.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Caring for a Class Plant A class plant needs regular care to stay healthy. **Give Water** Check the soil, and add water when the top feels dry. **Provide Light** Place the plant near a window where it can get enough light.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage for Questions 1 through 4. For Your Turn, look for a clear topic and focus, two useful headings, and details grouped under the matching heading.