

From River to Faucet

Study how an explanatory text organizes a technical process.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.2 "Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that show the order of steps, then number the five main treatment stages named in the last paragraph to trace the process clearly.

How a Treatment Plant Cleans Water

- ① Before water reaches a kitchen faucet, it travels through a treatment plant. Workers first collect water from a river, lake, or underground source and send it through screens. The screens catch leaves, sticks, and other large debris. Next, operators add chemicals that make tiny particles clump together. This step, called coagulation, prepares the water for the next stage. Although the water may look clearer, it is not ready to drink yet.
- ② During sedimentation, the heavy clumps sink to the bottom of a basin, while cleaner water moves onward. The water then passes through layers of sand, gravel, and charcoal. These filters trap smaller bits of dirt and some microorganisms. After filtration, a treatment plant adds a disinfectant, often chlorine or chloramine, to kill many harmful germs. Technicians test the water at several points. Their tests check that the treatment steps are working and that the water meets safety rules.
- ③ Finally, pumps send the treated water into enclosed pipes that lead to homes, schools, and businesses. The pipes help protect the water from new contamination during its trip. Treatment does not make every water source identical, so workers adjust some steps after testing the source water. Still, the main sequence remains the same: remove debris, separate particles, filter the water, disinfect it, and test it. Each stage has a purpose, and together the stages make public water supplies safer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the first paragraph introduce the process and prepare you for the details that follow?

2 What happens during sedimentation, and why is that step useful?

3 Find two words or phrases that signal the order of the process. What step follows each one?

4 How does the last paragraph help explain both the sequence and the purpose of water treatment?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write one explanatory paragraph of 6 sentences, 70 to 100 words, explaining how a bean seed sprouts. Use at least three order words, include two specific details, and end with a sentence that explains why the process matters.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show the order of steps, then number the five main treatment stages named in the last paragraph to trace the process clearly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph introduce the process and prepare you for the details that follow?	It identifies water treatment as the topic and explains the first steps, screening out large debris and causing tiny particles to clump.
2	What happens during sedimentation, and why is that step useful?	Heavy particle clumps sink to the bottom of a basin, allowing cleaner water to move on to the next stage.
3	Find two words or phrases that signal the order of the process. What step follows each one?	Answers may include "Next," followed by adding chemicals for coagulation; "After filtration," followed by adding disinfectant; or "Finally," followed by pumping treated water into pipes.
4	How does the last paragraph help explain both the sequence and the purpose of water treatment?	It lists the main stages in order and explains that the stages work together to make public water supplies safer.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bean seed begins to sprout when it absorbs water from moist soil. First, water softens the seed coat and activates the embryo inside. Next, the seed uses stored food as a small root breaks through the coat and grows downward. Then a shoot pushes upward, using energy until it reaches light. After leaves open, the young plant can make food through photosynthesis. This process matters because it gives the new plant roots, leaves, and a way to make its own food.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately explain the passage's sequence, details, and organizational choices. For the paragraph, look for a clear process, logical order, accurate details, and a concluding statement about the process's importance.