Garden Detectives

Use academic words to explain how an investigation works.

ELA.4.V.1.1 "Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline five academic vocabulary words that help explain the investigation. These words show actions or ideas scientists use when they study a question.

Why Are the Beans Pale?

1. On Monday, Maya joined the school garden team to investigate why some bean plants were growing slowly. She observed that plants near the fence had pale leaves, while plants in the center looked green and strong. Maya recorded the amount of sunlight each group received. Her notes gave the team useful evidence to examine later.

2. Next, the team compared the two areas. The fence blocked morning light for several hours, so the nearby plants received less light than the center plants. The students formed a hypothesis: limited sunlight was affecting leaf color and growth. To test this idea, they moved two potted bean plants into sunny spaces and kept two others by the fence.

3. After two weeks, the sunny plants had darker leaves and grew taller. The team concluded that bean plants need enough sunlight for healthy growth. They shared their results with the principal and proposed placing future garden beds away from the fence. Their clear explanation used observations, evidence, and a conclusion to support a practical decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Maya investigate? Write one sentence using the word investigate.

2. What evidence did Maya record? Write one sentence using the word evidence.

3. What hypothesis did the students form? Write one sentence using the word hypothesis.

4. What did the team propose? Use the word proposed in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Describe a simple investigation you could do at home or school in exactly three sentences. Use at least three of these academic words: observe, evidence, hypothesis, conclude, propose.

ANSWER KEY # Garden Detectives

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.V.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline five academic vocabulary words that help explain the investigation. These words show actions or ideas scientists use when they study a question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Maya investigate? Write one sentence using the word investigate.	**Maya investigated why some bean plants were growing slowly.**
2	What evidence did Maya record? Write one sentence using the word evidence.	**Maya recorded evidence about the amount of sunlight each group of plants received.**
3	What hypothesis did the students form? Write one sentence using the word hypothesis.	**The students' hypothesis was that limited sunlight was affecting leaf color and growth.**
4	What did the team propose? Use the word proposed in your answer.	**The team proposed placing future garden beds away from the fence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would observe two ice cubes, one in shade and one in sunlight. My hypothesis is that the sunny ice cube will melt faster. I would use the melting times as evidence to conclude which place is warmer and propose storing ice in a cooler spot.

Accept accurate sentences that use the academic word correctly and match information in the passage. For Part 3, accept any logical investigation in exactly three sentences that uses at least three listed words appropriately.