Seeds Under Stone

Trace how details build a central idea.

ELA.K12.EE.2.1 "Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that states a key idea or key detail. Draw arrows between your underlined sentences to show how they explain the vault's purpose.

A Backup for Seeds

1. Inside a frozen mountain on Norway's island of Spitsbergen, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault stores duplicate seeds from crop collections around the world. Opened in 2008, the vault lies deep in rock and 130 meters above sea level. Workers chose the site for its cold climate and stable ground. If power fails, the surrounding permafrost can help keep the seeds cool and slow their aging.

2. Seed banks send packages to the vault, but they still own the seeds they deposit. Each package contains many seeds from one crop variety, sealed in a labeled container. The vault does not regularly distribute these seeds or sell them. Instead, it acts as a backup, so a seed bank can request its own samples if a disaster, disease, or conflict damages its collection.

3. In 2015, a research center that had stored seeds there asked for samples after war in Syria made its work difficult. The center grew plants from the withdrawn seeds and collected fresh seeds. It later returned new samples to the vault. This event showed that the vault is not a museum for rare objects. It is a working safeguard for crops that communities may need to grow food in the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the passage?

2. What two features of the vault's location help protect the seeds?

3. How does paragraph 2 help explain why the research center could get seeds from the vault in 2015?

4. What does the phrase "working safeguard" mean in paragraph 3? Use the 2015 event to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence summary of the passage. Include one important detail from each paragraph and explain how the details connect to the vault's purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds Under Stone

GRADE 5 · ELA.K12.EE.2.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that states a key idea or key detail. Draw arrows between your underlined sentences to show how they explain the vault's purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central idea of the passage?	**The Svalbard Global Seed Vault protects backup crop seeds so seed banks can recover samples if their own collections are harmed.**
2	What two features of the vault's location help protect the seeds?	**It is deep inside stable rock, and its cold climate and surrounding permafrost help keep seeds cool.**
3	How does paragraph 2 help explain why the research center could get seeds from the vault in 2015?	**Paragraph 2 explains that seed banks still own their deposited seeds and can request their own samples when their collections are damaged or threatened.**
4	What does the phrase "working safeguard" mean in paragraph 3? Use the 2015 event to support your answer.	**It means the vault can be used to help restore crop collections. In 2015, the research center withdrew seeds, grew plants, collected fresh seeds, and returned new samples.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a cold, secure backup site for crop seeds from around the world. Seed banks keep ownership of their labeled samples and can ask for them when their own collections are damaged. When war disrupted a research center in Syria, it used stored seeds to grow plants and later returned fresh samples.

Accept summaries that state the vault's purpose, accurately include key details from all three paragraphs, and explain that the stored seeds can help restore collections. Accept equivalent wording for the central idea and the meaning of working safeguard when supported by passage evidence.