Steps That Matter

Notice how a how-to text puts actions in order.

4.P.AC.3.c "Apply knowledge of how mode and genre impact how ideas and information are structured and arranged in texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that signal the order of actions. Number the three main steps in the order a reader should do them.

Make a Simple Rain Gauge

1. Rain gauges measure how much rain falls. You can make one from a clear, straight-sided plastic bottle. Gather a ruler, waterproof marker, scissors, small stones, tape, and a notebook. Ask an adult to help with the scissors. First, cut off the top of the bottle where it begins to narrow. Turn that top upside down, and tape it inside the bottle like a funnel.

2. Next, place the stones in the bottom so the bottle will not tip over. Pour in water until it reaches just above the stones. Use the ruler to draw a line at the water level, then add lines every centimeter above it. These lines make a scale. Put the gauge outside in an open spot, away from roofs, trees, and sprinklers, which can add extra water.

3. After a rainstorm, look at the water level and read the number beside it. Write the amount and the date in your notebook. Then empty the bottle so it is ready for the next storm. Check the gauge at about the same time after each rainstorm. A chart with dates and amounts can help you compare rainy days over several weeks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the writer name the supplies before telling you to cut the bottle?

2. How do the words “First,” “Next,” and “After” help organize this text?

3. Why is the information about placing the gauge outside in the second paragraph instead of the first paragraph?

4. Why does this text use ordered actions instead of a paragraph of facts about rain gauges?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a title and three numbered steps that teach how to do a simple task, such as packing a lunch or watering a plant. Put the steps in the order they must happen, and use at least two order words.

ANSWER KEY

Steps That Matter

GRADE 4 · 4.P.AC.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that signal the order of actions. Number the three main steps in the order a reader should do them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the writer name the supplies before telling you to cut the bottle?	**The reader needs the supplies ready before beginning the steps.**
2	How do the words “First,” “Next,” and “After” help organize this text?	**They show the order of the actions, from making the gauge to checking it after rain.**
3	Why is the information about placing the gauge outside in the second paragraph instead of the first paragraph?	**The gauge must be made and marked with a scale before it is placed outside.**
4	Why does this text use ordered actions instead of a paragraph of facts about rain gauges?	**It is teaching the reader how to make and use a rain gauge, so the actions need to be in order.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pack a Lunch 1. First, wash your hands and choose a lunch container. 2. Next, put a sandwich, fruit, and a napkin inside. 3. Last, close the container and place it in your backpack.

Accept answers that explain how the how-to genre uses supplies, sequence words, and ordered steps to guide the reader. For Part 3, accept any clear title and three logically ordered steps that use at least two order words.