Clues in the Garden

Use nearby clues and word parts to unlock meanings.

4.P.EICC.3.g "Determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and concepts by applying knowledge of context and of academic vocabulary and word parts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that may be unfamiliar, circle the words that help explain each one, and box any helpful word part, such as un-.

How Rain Gardens Help

1. After a hard rain, water can rush across parking lots and sidewalks. This moving water is called runoff. It may carry soil, oil, and litter into storm drains. Some towns build rain gardens, shallow planted areas that collect runoff. Instead of sending all the water quickly away, a rain garden gives it time to soak into the ground.

2. The garden's soil must be permeable. In other words, it has tiny spaces that let water pass through. Loose soil and plant roots help water move downward. A layer of gravel may sit below the soil. This layer slows the water and helps keep the garden from becoming a muddy pool after every storm outside.

3. Rain gardens also act as a filter, a material or place that removes some unwanted bits from water. As water travels through roots, soil, and gravel, many bits of litter and soil stay behind. This can reduce pollution in nearby streams. Workers check the garden often, because compacted soil, soil pressed tightly together, cannot absorb water well.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 What does runoff mean? Which words in paragraph 1 help you figure it out?

2 What does permeable mean in paragraph 2? Give one context clue from the paragraph.

3 What does unwanted mean in paragraph 3? How does the word part un- help you?

4 What does compacted mean? What detail tells why compacted soil is a problem for a rain garden?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about an outdoor place. Use one word with re-, un-, or -less, and include a context clue that shows its meaning. Then write the word and its meaning after a colon.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in the Garden

GRADE 4 · 4.P.EICC.3.g

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that may be unfamiliar, circle the words that help explain each one, and box any helpful word part, such as un-. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does runoff mean? Which words in paragraph 1 help you figure it out?	**Runoff is water moving across land or pavement after rain. The clue is, "water can rush across parking lots and sidewalks."**
2	What does permeable mean in paragraph 2? Give one context clue from the paragraph.	**Permeable means letting water pass through. The clue is, "tiny spaces that let water pass through."**
3	What does unwanted mean in paragraph 3? How does the word part un- help you?	**Unwanted means not wanted. The prefix un- means not.**
4	What does compacted mean? What detail tells why compacted soil is a problem for a rain garden?	**Compacted means pressed tightly together. Compacted soil cannot absorb water well.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The trail became unsafe after heavy rain washed away part of the path. A sign told hikers not to use it until workers repaired the ground. unsafe: not safe

Accept equivalent meanings when students use a passage clue or a correct word-part explanation. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response with a correctly used word part, a clear context clue, and an accurate meaning.