From River to Tap

Trace each cleaning step and the reason it is needed.

4.T.T.2.b "Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action that changes or cleans the water. Circle the words or sentences that explain why each action is needed.

How Water Gets Clean

1. Before water reaches homes, it often travels through a treatment plant. Workers first send river or lake water through screens. The screens catch leaves, sticks, and other large trash. Next, the water enters a tank where tiny bits of dirt can be removed. Cleaning the water matters because people need water that is safe to drink, cook with, and wash with.

2. At the tank, workers add a substance that makes small particles stick together. These larger clumps are called floc. The floc becomes heavy and sinks to the bottom of the tank. This step is useful because workers can take away the settled clumps more easily than they could remove tiny floating particles. Clearer water then moves on to the next step.

3. After settling, the water passes through layers of sand, gravel, and charcoal. These filters trap smaller pieces that did not sink. Finally, a small amount of disinfectant is added to kill many harmful germs. The treated water is tested before it enters pipes leading to homes. Testing is important because it helps workers check that the cleaning steps worked and the water meets safety rules.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Workers add a substance in the tank. What happens to the small particles, and why does this help workers?

2. What happens after the water has settled, and why is this next step needed?

3. What is added near the end of the procedure, and why is it added?

4. What happens right before the water enters home pipes, and why is that action important?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a process you know, such as planting a seed or making a snack. Write four numbered steps. In every step, tell what happens and include a because phrase that explains why the step is needed.

ANSWER KEY

From River to Tap

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action that changes or cleans the water. Circle the words or sentences that explain why each action is needed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Workers add a substance in the tank. What happens to the small particles, and why does this help workers?	**The particles stick together to form floc. The floc becomes heavy and settles, so workers can remove it more easily than tiny floating particles.**
2	What happens after the water has settled, and why is this next step needed?	**The water passes through sand, gravel, and charcoal filters. The filters trap smaller pieces that did not sink.**
3	What is added near the end of the procedure, and why is it added?	**A small amount of disinfectant is added because it kills many harmful germs.**
4	What happens right before the water enters home pipes, and why is that action important?	**The treated water is tested. Testing helps workers check that the cleaning steps worked and that the water meets safety rules.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. First, fill a small cup with potting soil because roots need a loose place to grow. 2. Next, make a small hole and place a bean seed inside because the seed needs space in the soil. 3. Cover the seed and water the soil lightly because the seed needs moisture to begin growing. 4. Put the cup in a sunny spot and check the soil each day because the seedling needs light and water as it grows.

Accept accurate paraphrases that name the action and its reason using details from the passage. For Part 3, accept any logical four-step process if every numbered step includes both what happens and a because explanation.