Compost Clues

Interpret how a process text explains change.

5.P.EICC.2.c "Explain and learn concepts and processes by interpreting and constructing texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three main process steps 1, 2, and 3. Underline words or phrases that explain why a step happens or what it causes.

From Scraps to Soil

1. At Maple Street Garden, students turn food scraps into compost, a dark material that helps soil. First, they add fruit peels, vegetable bits, dry leaves, and shredded paper to a bin. These materials are called organic matter because they came from living things. The students avoid meat, oil, and dairy foods, which can smell bad and attract animals.

2. Next, tiny living things such as bacteria and fungi feed on the organic matter. They need air and water to work well, so students mix the pile with a garden fork and add water when it feels dry. Mixing also spreads the materials around. As the tiny living things work, they release heat, and the center of the pile becomes warm.

3. After several weeks or months, much of the original material breaks down. The pile shrinks, cools, and looks more like crumbly soil than like food scraps or leaves. Students can spread the finished compost around plants. It helps soil hold water and provides nutrients that plants use to grow. The change happens faster when the pile has the right balance of wet and dry materials.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the word “First” tell you about the information in paragraph 1?

2. Why do students mix the pile and add water when it is dry?

3. Which details show that the compost is finished?

4. What does the last sentence explain about the composting process?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-step explanation of how something familiar changes, such as an ice cube melting or a seed growing. Use order words, such as First, Next, and Finally, and include one sentence that explains why a change happens.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three main process steps 1, 2, and 3. Underline words or phrases that explain why a step happens or what it causes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the word "First" tell you about the information in paragraph 1?	**It introduces the first step in making compost, adding organic matter to the bin.**
2	Why do students mix the pile and add water when it is dry?	**Bacteria and fungi need air and water to work well.**
3	Which details show that the compost is finished?	**The pile has shrunk and cooled, and it looks like crumbly soil instead of scraps or leaves.**
4	What does the last sentence explain about the composting process?	**Composting happens faster when the pile has a good balance of wet and dry materials.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, place an ice cube on a plate in a warm room. Next, heat from the air moves into the ice, so it melts into liquid water. Finally, the water spreads across the plate because liquid water flows.

Accept answers that use passage details to explain sequence, causes, and results. For Part 3, accept any accurate three-step process explanation with clear order and at least one cause-and-effect connection.