Water's Clean Path

Trace how an explanatory text makes a process clear.

6.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 Underline words that signal order, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the order of the main treatment stages. These marks show how the author explains a process.

How Water Becomes Safer to Drink

1 Before water reaches a faucet, a treatment plant removes many materials that could make it unsafe. Water from a river, lake, or underground source enters the plant through large pipes. First, screens catch leaves, sticks, and other large debris. Workers may also adjust the water's chemistry so later steps work well. This early stage does not make the water ready to drink, but it prepares the water for the smaller particles that must be removed next.

2 Next, the plant adds a substance that helps tiny particles clump together. These clumps are called floc. As the water moves slowly through a basin, the heavier floc sinks to the bottom, where it can be removed. This process is useful because dirt and some germs can be attached to the sinking clumps. The clearer water then flows onward. Even after the clumps settle, however, very small particles may still be floating in the water.

3 Finally, the water passes through filters made of materials such as sand, gravel, or charcoal. Filters trap many of the particles that remained after settling. The plant then disinfects the water, often with chlorine, ozone, or ultraviolet light, to kill or inactivate many disease-causing microorganisms. Before the water enters pipes leading to homes and schools, workers test samples to check that it meets safety rules. Each stage has a different job, and the stages work together to make the water safer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph prepare you to understand the second paragraph? Use a detail from each paragraph.

2. What happens because the added substance makes tiny particles clump together?

3. Compare the jobs of filters and disinfection in the final paragraph.

4. Why do workers test water samples after the other treatment stages and before the water enters pipes?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence process explaining how to pack a lunch that stays safe to eat. Begin your sentences with First, Next, and Finally, and use because in one sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Water's Clean Path

GRADE 6 · 6.P.EICC.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that signal order, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the order of the main treatment stages. These marks show how the author explains a process. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph prepare you to understand the second paragraph? Use a detail from each paragraph.	**The first paragraph explains that screens remove large debris and prepare the water for smaller particles. The second paragraph explains how tiny particles clump, sink, and are removed.**
2	What happens because the added substance makes tiny particles clump together?	**The clumps, or floc, become heavy enough to sink so they can be removed. Dirt and some germs may be attached to the clumps.**
3	Compare the jobs of filters and disinfection in the final paragraph.	**Filters trap particles left after settling. Disinfection kills or inactivates many disease-causing microorganisms.**
4	Why do workers test water samples after the other treatment stages and before the water enters pipes?	**They test the water to check that it meets safety rules before it is sent to homes and schools.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I wash my hands and choose a clean container. Next, I pack cold foods with an ice pack because cold temperatures slow the growth of many harmful germs. Finally, I close the container and place it in my bag.

Accept clear three-step processes that use the required sequence words and include a logical reason with because. For the passage questions, accept accurate paraphrases that show how each stage connects to the next.