From River to Tap

Trace how sequence and details explain a process.

8.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 Circle the sequence words that show when each stage happens. Underline one detail in each paragraph that explains why a stage is needed or what it removes.

How Drinking Water Is Treated

1. Before water reaches taps, a treatment plant removes materials that could make it unsafe or unpleasant. First, water from a river, lake, or underground source enters the plant. Metal screens catch large items such as sticks, leaves, and plastic. Next, workers may add chemicals that cause tiny bits of dirt to cling together in larger clumps. This step does not make the water ready to drink, but it prepares the particles for removal in the next stages.

2. Then the water moves into a settling basin, where it rests long enough for the heavier clumps to sink. Workers remove the sludge that collects at the bottom. Water near the top is clearer, but it can still hold very small particles. It flows through filters made of layers of sand, gravel, and sometimes anthracite, a type of coal. The filter layers trap many remaining particles while allowing water to pass through. Each stage removes a different size or kind of material.

3. Finally, the plant disinfects the filtered water to kill or inactivate many germs, including bacteria and viruses. A plant may use chlorine, ozone, or ultraviolet light, depending on its system. Operators test the water throughout treatment and adjust the process when results show a problem. After disinfection, clean water enters covered storage tanks or pipes. Pumps and gravity move it through the distribution system to homes, schools, and businesses. The process works because each step builds on the last one.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the first paragraph say that adding chemicals does not make the water ready to drink?

2. How are the settling basin and the filters different in the way they remove material from water?

3. What does the word “but” help you understand in the sentence about water near the top of the settling basin?

4. How does testing the water help operators explain why treatment is a process with several connected steps?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence explanation of an everyday process, such as checking out a library book or charging a phone. Use at least two sequence words, include one reason a step matters, and make each sentence move the process forward.

ANSWER KEY

From River to Tap

GRADE 8 · 8.P.EICC.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the sequence words that show when each stage happens. Underline one detail in each paragraph that explains why a stage is needed or what it removes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the first paragraph say that adding chemicals does not make the water ready to drink?	**The chemicals make tiny dirt particles form larger clumps, preparing them to be removed in later stages.**
2	How are the settling basin and the filters different in the way they remove material from water?	**In the settling basin, heavier clumps sink and are removed as sludge. Filters trap many of the smaller remaining particles.**
3	What does the word “but” help you understand in the sentence about water near the top of the settling basin?	**It shows that the water is clearer after settling, but it still contains very small particles and needs filtering.**
4	How does testing the water help operators explain why treatment is a process with several connected steps?	**Operators test throughout treatment and adjust the process when they find a problem, showing that the stages must work together before water is distributed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, a student finds a book and brings it to the circulation desk. Next, the librarian scans the book's barcode and the student's library card. The computer records the due date, so the library can track when the book should return. Finally, the student takes the book home and returns it by the due date.

Accept answers that accurately interpret the passage's sequence, connections, and supporting details. For Part 3, accept any clear four-sentence process explanation with at least two sequence words and a reason that correctly connects a step to its purpose.