Worms at Work

Read a model that explains one main idea with facts.

2.W.3 "Write informative/explanatory pieces on a main idea that introduces a topic, provides facts and details about the topic, and includes a concluding statement."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells the main idea, number two facts that support it, and circle the last sentence that wraps up the idea.

Earthworms Help Soil

1. Earthworms help make soil a good home for plants. They live underground and move through the dirt without legs. As they travel, they make small paths called tunnels. Those tunnels give water a way into the soil.

2. Earthworms eat dead leaves and other bits of plants. Their food passes through their bodies. Then the worms leave tiny piles called castings in the soil. Castings have nutrients that help plants grow.

3. Some earthworms pull dead leaves down into their tunnels. There, the leaves break into smaller pieces. This puts more plant matter into the soil, where it can break down over time. All these jobs help plants grow in healthy soil.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What main idea does the first sentence introduce?

2. Name two facts from the passage that support the main idea.

3. How does the last sentence bring the writing back to the main idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal other than an earthworm and write four sentences explaining how it moves. Start with your main idea, add two true facts about its movement, and end with a sentence that sums up your idea.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells the main idea, number two facts that support it, and circle the last sentence that wraps up the idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main idea does the first sentence introduce?	**Earthworms help make soil a good home for plants.**
2	Name two facts from the passage that support the main idea.	**Earthworm tunnels let water into the soil. Earthworm castings have nutrients that help plants grow.**
3	How does the last sentence bring the writing back to the main idea?	**It says that the earthworms' jobs help plants grow in healthy soil.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A duck can move in water and on land. Its webbed feet push water back when it swims. On land, it walks on its two legs. These moves help a duck travel in different places.

For marking, accept any two passage facts that support the main idea. For the writing task, check for four sentences with a main idea, two accurate movement facts, and a concluding sentence.