# Earthworm Clues

Use headings and bold words to find facts.

**3.RC.7** "Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning from a text (e.g., maps, illustrations, charts, font/format)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle the three bold section headings. Underline the bold word inside each section to help you find facts about earthworms.

### A Worm's Work

1. **Paths Underground** Earthworms move through soil by stretching and squeezing their bodies. Tiny bristles help them grip the ground. As they travel, they make narrow paths called **burrows**. Some earthworms pull dead leaves into these paths to eat later. Their moving bodies also leave small spaces in the soil. These spaces let air and water reach plant roots more easily.

2. **After Rain** Earthworms need **damp** skin to take in oxygen from the air. They cannot breathe through dry skin. Rain keeps the ground wet, so worms may travel on top of it. You might spot one crossing a sidewalk after a shower. But a worm can dry out quickly in hot sun. It often moves toward shade or back into moist soil.

3. **Helping the Soil** Earthworms eat bits of dead plants mixed with soil. What comes out of a worm's body is called **castings**. Castings add nutrients to the soil. Plants can use those nutrients as they grow. A worm does not work alone. Many worms moving, eating, and leaving castings can change the soil in a garden. Gardeners may notice softer soil where worms are active.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which bold word helps you find the name of a worm's narrow path? What is the path called?

2. Which heading helps you find why you might see a worm after rain? Explain why.

3. Which bold word points you to what a worm's skin needs for breathing? What does the skin need?

4. Which heading leads you to how worms help plants grow? What do castings add to the soil?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new heading for the first paragraph that is not already on this page. Then write two sentences explaining which two facts in that paragraph your heading would help a reader find.

ANSWER KEY

# Earthworm Clues

GRADE 3 · 3.RC.7

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the three bold section headings. Underline the bold word inside each section to help you find facts about earthworms. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Which bold word helps you find the name of a worm's narrow path? What is the path called? | **The bold word is burrows. A burrow is a narrow path a worm makes in soil.** |
| 2 | Which heading helps you find why you might see a worm after rain? Explain why. | **After Rain. Rain keeps the ground wet, so worms may travel on top of it.** |
| 3 | Which bold word points you to what a worm's skin needs for breathing? What does the skin need? | **The word is damp. A worm needs damp skin to take in oxygen.** |
| 4 | Which heading leads you to how worms help plants grow? What do castings add to the soil? | **Helping the Soil. Castings add nutrients that plants can use.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Worms on the Move
This heading helps readers find how worms stretch and squeeze through soil. It also points them to the tiny bristles that help worms grip the ground.

Accept any new heading that fits the first paragraph. The two sentences should identify two accurate facts from that paragraph.