Ideas in Flow

See how an explanation connects steps, causes, and results.

4.W.2.d "Connect ideas using words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that connect ideas in the passage, then circle two that show cause and effect.

How a Rain Garden Works

1. After a hard rain, water races across a school parking lot. It can carry dirt and bits of litter toward a storm drain. A rain garden offers another path for some of that water. First, workers make a shallow dip in the ground near the pavement. Then they guide runoff into the dip. Instead of rushing straight to a drain, the water gathers among plants.

2. The garden does more than hold a puddle. Because its soil is loose, some water can soak into the ground. Plant roots also make spaces in the soil as they grow. As a result, water has more paths below the surface. The plants take in some water, too. However, a rain garden needs a safe way for extra water to leave during a very heavy storm.

3. A rain garden changes with the seasons. For example, purple coneflowers may bloom in summer, while their seed heads can feed birds later. In fall, dry leaves may collect between the stems. These leaves can shelter small insects and slowly break down. Therefore, leaving some plant material in place can help living things in the garden. Even when no flowers are open, the garden is still busy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do “First” and “Then” connect the two jobs workers do?

2. What does “Because” tell you about loose soil and water?

3. Which idea does “As a result” connect to water having more paths below the surface?

4. What facts about dry leaves lead to the conclusion introduced by “Therefore”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how you prepare your backpack for school. Use at least three connecting words or phrases to show order, cause, or a result, and underline them.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas in Flow

GRADE 4 · 4.W.2.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that connect ideas in the passage, then circle two that show cause and effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do "First" and "Then" connect the two jobs workers do?	**They show the order: workers make a shallow dip before guiding runoff into it.**
2	What does "Because" tell you about loose soil and water?	**Loose soil is a reason some water can soak into the ground.**
3	Which idea does "As a result" connect to water having more paths below the surface?	**Plant roots make spaces in the soil as they grow, so water has more paths below the surface.**
4	What facts about dry leaves lead to the conclusion introduced by "Therefore"?	**Dry leaves can shelter small insects and slowly break down, so leaving some plant material can help living things.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I check my homework folder for finished pages. Next, I put the folder and my books in my backpack. Because I need water during the day, I add a filled bottle to the side pocket. As a result, my supplies are ready when I leave.

Accept answers that accurately explain the relationship each connecting word or phrase signals. For the writing task, look for four sentences and at least three underlined connections that fit the ideas.