# Questions Above Us

Turn details about rooftop gardens into focused research questions

**5.W.5.a** "With support, formulate a research question (e.g., What were John Wooden's greatest contributions to college basketball?)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline four details that could help you narrow a study of rooftop gardens. Number the details 1 to 4 to show four different paths for research.

### Gardens on the Roof

1. On a hot day, a school roof can feel like a griddle. Some buildings have rooftop gardens, with soil and plants above the rooms below. A garden may shade part of the roof, but its effect can depend on the plants and the building. A student studying rooftop gardens might focus on heat rather than trying to learn everything about the gardens at once.

2. During a storm, rain falls on roofs and often runs into drains. Soil in a rooftop garden can soak up some of that rain. Some water later leaves the soil through plant leaves, while extra water may still flow into drains. The amount a garden holds can change with soil depth and the size of a storm. These details offer a second path for research.

3. A rooftop garden can also offer food for bees and butterflies when its flowers bloom. Yet caring for plants high above the street takes planning. Someone must choose plants that can handle the local weather and check that the roof can carry the added weight. Garden workers may also need a way to bring water upstairs. Each detail could become a smaller topic to investigate.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a focused research question about rooftop gardens and heat. Use a detail from paragraph 1.

2. Write a research question about the rain a rooftop garden holds. Use one detail from paragraph 2 to narrow it.

3. Write a research question about flowers and visiting insects in a rooftop garden. Use a detail from paragraph 3.

4. Write a research question about one challenge of caring for a rooftop garden. Use a specific detail from paragraph 3.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a real place or activity not discussed in the passage. Name your broad topic and two details that narrow it, then write one research question you could investigate.

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## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four details that could help you narrow a study of rooftop gardens. Number the details 1 to 4 to show four different paths for research. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Write a focused research question about rooftop gardens and heat. Use a detail from paragraph 1. | **How does the amount of roof shaded by plants affect the temperature of the roof?** |
| 2 | Write a research question about the rain a rooftop garden holds. Use one detail from paragraph 2 to narrow it. | **How does soil depth affect the amount of rain a rooftop garden holds?** |
| 3 | Write a research question about flowers and visiting insects in a rooftop garden. Use a detail from paragraph 3. | **How does the type of flower in a rooftop garden affect visits by bees and butterflies?** |
| 4 | Write a research question about one challenge of caring for a rooftop garden. Use a specific detail from paragraph 3. | **How do gardeners bring water to rooftop gardens on tall buildings?** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Topic: Watching birds at a backyard feeder. Details: seed types and kinds of birds. Research question: How does the type of seed in a backyard feeder affect which birds visit?

Accept varied questions that are focused, researchable, and tied to the requested passage detail. For Part 3, the question should use the student's own topic and narrow it with specific details.