Rain's New Route

Trace how a solution gains detail and limits.

8.RC.4 "Analyze the development of a central idea over the course of a text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide a detailed, objective summary of the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that shows how the main idea develops, number your choices 1 to 3, and write a short margin note explaining each choice.

A Garden That Handles Runoff

1 After a hard rain, a city sidewalk can become a stream. Water slides across pavement, picks up bits of oil and trash, and rushes toward a storm drain. In many places, those drains carry runoff to a nearby waterway without the kind of treatment drinking water receives. More pavement also means less open ground where rain can soak in. A rain garden offers one way to change that route: it is a shallow planted area designed to catch runoff from a roof, street, or parking lot.

2 A rain garden does not work simply because it has flowers. Its basin slows incoming water, while the soil beneath it allows some water to soak in and helps trap some pollutants. Deep-rooted plants can hold soil in place and tolerate periods of wet and dry weather. When a storm brings more water than the garden can hold, an overflow route can direct the extra water away safely. These features turn a patch of land into a small piece of stormwater infrastructure rather than just decoration.

3 But a rain garden needs the right location and continuing care. A garden placed where water cannot drain well may stay soggy, so designers test the soil and plan where overflow will go. After construction, neighbors or maintenance crews clear blocked inlets and remove litter; they may replace plants that die. One garden cannot handle every storm or erase all pollution. Together with other measures, however, well-placed and well-kept rain gardens can reduce runoff reaching drains and waterways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem in paragraph 1 makes a rain garden useful, and how does that problem introduce the passage's main idea?

2. How do two features described in paragraph 2 support the idea that a rain garden is more than decoration?

3. How does the final paragraph refine the solution introduced in paragraph 1? Use one condition from the final paragraph.

4. Which detail in paragraph 3 supports the idea that a rain garden's effectiveness depends on upkeep? Explain the connection.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an objective summary of the entire passage in 3 to 4 sentences. Include the runoff problem, how rain gardens work, and a limitation or condition, without adding opinions or facts not stated.

ANSWER KEY

Rain's New Route

GRADE 8 · 8.RC.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that shows how the main idea develops, number your choices 1 to 3, and write a short margin note explaining each choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem in paragraph 1 makes a rain garden useful, and how does that problem introduce the passage's main idea?	**Runoff flows over pavement, carrying oil and trash toward drains while less rain soaks into the ground. This introduces rain gardens as one way to change where runoff goes.**
2	How do two features described in paragraph 2 support the idea that a rain garden is more than decoration?	**The basin slows runoff, and the soil lets some water soak in while trapping some pollutants. These features help the garden manage runoff.**
3	How does the final paragraph refine the solution introduced in paragraph 1? Use one condition from the final paragraph.	**It shows that a rain garden helps only when it is well placed and cared for. For example, designers must check whether water can drain at the site.**
4	Which detail in paragraph 3 supports the idea that a rain garden's effectiveness depends on upkeep? Explain the connection.	**Crews clear blocked inlets. If water cannot enter the garden, it cannot catch runoff as intended.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rainwater running over pavement can carry oil and trash toward drains and waterways, while less water soaks into the ground. Rain gardens catch runoff in shallow planted areas, where soil helps trap some pollutants and lets some water soak in; overflow routes can carry away extra water. Because location and upkeep affect how well they work, rain gardens are one measure for reducing runoff, not a solution to every storm or all pollution.

For the marking job, accept different sentences if the margin notes explain their roles in introducing the runoff problem or solution, explaining how the garden works, and qualifying its effectiveness. Summaries should cover all three paragraphs objectively and should not claim that rain gardens stop all runoff or pollution.