Keeping Roots Growing

How a community passes on its work

S.2.10 "Describe traditions, roles, and expectations necessary for a community to continue."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a tradition, circle two roles, and number two expectations to trace how the garden keeps going as members change.

The Cedar Block Garden

1 On a vacant lot, neighbors created the Cedar Block Garden, a shared place for growing food. Each spring, members hold a seed exchange. Families bring saved seeds or seedlings and explain how they grow. New members leave with something to plant and a chance to meet experienced gardeners. The exchange does more than fill garden beds. It passes along local growing knowledge and helps newcomers feel they belong. Because anyone may take part, the tradition brings in people who might one day care for the garden. Without new participants, the same few volunteers would eventually have to do every task.

2 The garden also needs work that repeats every week. Two volunteers coordinate watering shifts, and others check tools, turn compost, and record what was planted in each bed. Members agree to put tools back, conserve water, and tell the coordinators when they cannot cover a shift. These expectations protect shared supplies and make the schedule reliable. A missed watering shift can damage young plants, but a quick message gives someone else time to step in. No one person holds every job. By sharing roles and keeping records, members make it easier for new volunteers to take over later.

3 One summer, several longtime members moved away. The remaining gardeners could have kept the old schedule and let empty shifts pile up. Instead, they invited neighbors to a monthly work morning, showed them how to use the compost bins, and posted clear instructions beside the tool shed. They kept the spring seed exchange but began offering seedlings to people without seeds to trade. These changes preserved the exchange's purpose while removing a barrier to joining. The garden continued because members passed on skills, shared responsibility, and adjusted expectations when the group changed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the seed exchange help the garden continue after current members leave?

2. How do shared jobs and planting records make it easier for new volunteers to take over?

3. Why must members tell the coordinators when they cannot cover a watering shift?

4. After longtime members moved away, how did the work morning and posted instructions help the garden continue?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a community-run bicycle repair workshop whose experienced volunteers are leaving. In 4 to 5 sentences, propose a tradition, two roles, and one expectation, and explain how each would help the workshop continue.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a tradition, circle two roles, and number two expectations to trace how the garden keeps going as members change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the seed exchange help the garden continue after current members leave?	**It passes growing knowledge to newcomers and helps them feel welcome, making it more likely that new people will care for the garden.**
2	How do shared jobs and planting records make it easier for new volunteers to take over?	**Shared jobs keep the work from depending on one person, and records tell new volunteers what was planted in each bed.**
3	Why must members tell the coordinators when they cannot cover a watering shift?	**The notice gives someone else time to water, which helps prevent damage to young plants.**
4	After longtime members moved away, how did the work morning and posted instructions help the garden continue?	**The work morning brought in neighbors and taught them a task. The instructions helped new volunteers do work that longtime members had done.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A monthly fix-it day would bring neighbors together to learn repairs and invite new volunteers to join. A training volunteer would teach safe brake checks so those skills do not disappear when experienced volunteers leave. A supply coordinator would track parts and show a replacement how to reorder them. Everyone would be expected to label borrowed tools and return them before closing, so the next group can find what it needs. Together, these practices would help the workshop keep serving neighbors as its volunteers change.

Accept different passage-supported examples of roles and expectations in the marking task. For Your Turn, look for a distinct tradition, two roles, and an expectation, each linked to the workshop's ability to continue.