Detail Detectives

Build a report about how a seed grows into a plant.

C.4.2 "Compose informative and/or explanatory texts, using writing and digital resources, to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RELATED

A related detail teaches the reader something about the report's exact topic. If your topic is how goldfish breathe, the example belongs.

Goldfish use gills to take oxygen from water.

UNRELATED

An unrelated detail may be true, but it does not teach the reader about the report's exact topic. The example does not explain how goldfish breathe.

Skateboards roll on four wheels.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RELATED or UNRELATED for each detail about how a seed grows into a plant, then choose one item from each group and explain your choices in Part 2.

1.	A seed needs water to begin sprouting.	RELATED UNRELATED
2.	A seed coat protects the tiny plant inside.	RELATED UNRELATED
3.	The moon has many craters.	RELATED UNRELATED
4.	Roots take in water from the soil.	RELATED UNRELATED
5.	Guitars have strings that make sounds.	RELATED UNRELATED
6.	Buses carry people to school.	RELATED UNRELATED
7.	A shoot grows upward toward light.	RELATED UNRELATED
8.	Leaves use sunlight to help the plant make food.	RELATED UNRELATED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new RELATED fact and one new UNRELATED fact for a report about how a seed grows into a plant.

RELATED _____

UNRELATED _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about how a seed grows into a plant. Use two RELATED details from Part 1 and connect the ideas with a word such as "then" or "also."

ANSWER KEY

Detail Detectives

GRADE 4 · C.4.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A seed needs water to begin sprouting.	**RELATED**	Water helps a seed begin to sprout.
2	A seed coat protects the tiny plant inside.	**RELATED**	The seed coat is part of a seed before it sprouts.
3	The moon has many craters.	**UNRELATED**	Moon craters do not explain how a seed grows.
4	Roots take in water from the soil.	**RELATED**	Roots help the growing plant get water.
5	Guitars have strings that make sounds.	**UNRELATED**	Guitars do not explain how a seed grows.
6	Buses carry people to school.	**UNRELATED**	Buses do not explain how a seed grows.
7	A shoot grows upward toward light.	**RELATED**	The shoot's growth is part of becoming a plant.
8	Leaves use sunlight to help the plant make food.	**RELATED**	Leaves help the growing plant make food.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **RELATED**: The stem holds the young plant upright.
- **UNRELATED**: A turtle's shell helps protect its body.

Challenge: A seed needs water to begin sprouting. Then roots take in water from the soil.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are RELATED. For Part 2, accept explanations that connect a related detail to seed growth or explain why an unrelated detail does not teach about it.