Details That Belong

Focus: How does a school garden help butterflies survive?

C.5.2 "Compose informative and/or explanatory texts, using writing and digital resources, to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RELATED DETAIL

A related detail helps explain the focus. It gives the reader useful information about the topic.

Focus: How do bicycle brakes help riders stop?
Squeezing a lever presses brake pads against a wheel.

UNRELATED DETAIL

An unrelated detail does not help explain the focus, even if it mentions the topic.

Focus: How do bicycle brakes help riders stop?
The cafeteria serves noodle soup.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RELATED or UNRELATED for each detail, then choose two numbered items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Milkweed leaves in the garden give monarch caterpillars food.	RELATED UNRELATED
2.	Flowers that bloom at different times give butterflies nectar for many weeks.	RELATED UNRELATED
3.	Students painted the garden fence purple.	RELATED UNRELATED
4.	Tall garden plants give butterflies shelter from strong winds.	RELATED UNRELATED
5.	The school bus arrives at 8:10.	RELATED UNRELATED
6.	A butterfly's wings are covered with tiny scales.	RELATED UNRELATED
7.	Students avoid spraying pesticides in the garden, which helps protect butterflies from harmful chemicals.	RELATED UNRELATED
8.	The garden was named after the school principal.	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 detail and one new UNRELATED detail about the garden; label each.

RELATED _____

UNRELATED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one UNRELATED item from Part 1 and rewrite it as one RELATED sentence that explains how the garden helps butterflies survive.

ANSWER KEY

Details That Belong

GRADE 5 · C.5.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Milkweed leaves in the garden give monarch caterpillars food.	**RELATED**	It explains how garden plants help young butterflies survive.
2	Flowers that bloom at different times give butterflies nectar for many weeks.	**RELATED**	It explains how the garden provides food over time.
3	Students painted the garden fence purple.	**UNRELATED**	The fence color does not explain how the garden helps butterflies.
4	Tall garden plants give butterflies shelter from strong winds.	**RELATED**	It explains how the garden provides shelter.
5	The school bus arrives at 8:10.	**UNRELATED**	The bus schedule does not address the focus.
6	A butterfly's wings are covered with tiny scales.	**UNRELATED**	This fact about butterflies does not explain how the garden helps them.
7	Students avoid spraying pesticides in the garden, which helps protect butterflies from harmful chemicals.	**RELATED**	It explains how caring for the garden helps protect butterflies.
8	The garden was named after the school principal.	**UNRELATED**	The garden's name does not explain how it helps butterflies.

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**: Flat stones in the garden give butterflies sunny places to warm their bodies.
- **UNRELATED**: The garden's wooden sign has purple letters.

Challenge: The garden fence supports flowering vines that give butterflies nectar.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect a related detail to the garden's help or show why an unrelated detail does not explain that help. For the challenge, accept a revised sentence that clearly explains a benefit to butterflies.