# Where Rain Goes

Use word clues to understand an informational text.

**RI.3.4** "Determine the meaning of general academic words and phrases in a grade-level text and describe how those words and phrases shape meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle four words that help explain what happens to rainwater. Underline nearby clues that help you figure out what each word means.

### A Garden for Rain

1. After a heavy rain, water races off sidewalks and roads. It can carry bits of dirt and trash toward a stream. Some neighborhoods build rain gardens beside streets. These gardens are low places filled with soil and plants. Their bowl shape helps them collect rainwater. Instead of rushing down a drain, the water gathers in the garden for a while.

2. Once water reaches a rain garden, the soil can absorb some of it. The water moves into tiny spaces between pieces of soil, much like water sinking into a sponge. Plant roots take in some water, too. A rain garden cannot hold every drop in a huge storm, but it slows the flow. This gives water more time to sink into the ground.

3. By slowing the flow, rain gardens reduce the amount of dirty water that reaches streams at once. They do not make storms smaller. They help by sending less runoff into drains during a storm. Rain gardens can also protect streams because some dirt stays in the garden instead of washing into the water. People must remove trapped trash to keep these gardens working well.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does *collect* mean in the first paragraph? How does that word help explain the garden's shape?

2. What does *absorb* mean in the second paragraph? How does that word help explain what the soil does?

3. What does *reduce* mean in the third paragraph? How does that word show what changes during a storm?

4. What does *protect* mean in the third paragraph? How does that word help explain what happens to streams?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your school adds a rain garden near its playground. Write a two-sentence sign explaining what the garden does. Use two words you circled and give a clue to each word's meaning.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 3 · RI.3.4**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle four words that help explain what happens to rainwater. Underline nearby clues that help you figure out what each word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does *collect* mean in the first paragraph? How does that word help explain the garden's shape? | **Collect means gather. The bowl shape lets rainwater gather in the garden.** |
| 2 | What does *absorb* mean in the second paragraph? How does that word help explain what the soil does? | **Absorb means take in. The soil takes in water through tiny spaces.** |
| 3 | What does *reduce* mean in the third paragraph? How does that word show what changes during a storm? | **Reduce means make less. Less dirty water reaches streams at once.** |
| 4 | What does *protect* mean in the third paragraph? How does that word help explain what happens to streams? | **Protect means help keep safe. The garden keeps some dirt from washing into streams.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our rain garden collects water from the playground, so the water gathers here instead of rushing into a drain. Its soil absorbs some of that water, letting it sink into the ground.

Accept other accurate words in the marking task if students underline useful context clues. For the sign, check that both chosen words are used correctly and that each has a clue to its meaning.