Where Rain Goes

Use word clues to follow rainwater's path.

RI.4.4 "Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a grade-level text, and describe and explain how those words and phrases shape meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first use of *runoff*, *permeable*, *seeps*, and *clog*. Circle nearby words that help you understand what each word means and what happens to the water.

A Parking Lot with Tiny Openings

1. When rain hits an ordinary parking lot, water cannot soak through the hard surface. It becomes runoff, water that flows over the ground. Runoff may carry oil and dirt into a storm drain. During a heavy storm, so much water can rush into drains that nearby streets flood. Some towns use a different kind of pavement to slow that rush.

2. Permeable pavement looks solid from a few steps away, but it has tiny openings called pores. Rain slips through these pores into a layer of loose stones below. The stones hold the water for a while, like a sponge. Then the water seeps into the soil beneath them. This design reduces the amount of runoff that races toward storm drains.

3. These parking areas need care. Leaves and sand can clog the pores, blocking the paths water uses to pass through. Workers may clean the surface with a special vacuum to keep it open. Permeable pavement is not right for every place, especially where soil drains poorly. But where it works, it gives rain another route and helps protect streets during storms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does *runoff* mean? How does this word help explain why heavy rain can be a problem?

2. What does *permeable* tell you about the pavement? How does that change where rain goes?

3. What does *seeps* mean in the second paragraph? What does it tell you about how water leaves the stones?

4. What does *clog* mean? How does this word help explain why workers clean the pavement?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a word or phrase from the passage other than the four underlined words. In two sentences, explain what it means using clues in the text and how it helps you understand what happens to rain.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first use of *runoff*, *permeable*, *seeps*, and *clog*. Circle nearby words that help you understand what each word means and what happens to the water. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does *runoff* mean? How does this word help explain why heavy rain can be a problem?	**Runoff is water that flows over the ground. It can carry oil and dirt into drains, and too much of it can flood streets.**
2	What does *permeable* tell you about the pavement? How does that change where rain goes?	**Permeable means water can pass through. Rain goes through openings in the pavement instead of flowing across its surface.**
3	What does *seeps* mean in the second paragraph? What does it tell you about how water leaves the stones?	**Seeps means moves slowly through. The water leaves the stones gradually and enters the soil.**
4	What does *clog* mean? How does this word help explain why workers clean the pavement?	**Clog means block an opening. Workers clean the pavement so water can keep passing through its pores.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The phrase “like a sponge” means the loose stones can hold water for a while. It helps me picture the stones storing rain instead of letting it rush straight into a drain.

Accept meanings supported by nearby clues. Students should also explain how the chosen word or phrase adds to their understanding of rainwater's path, not just give a definition.