Where Rain Goes

Trace how a change to the ground changes the path of rainwater.

RI.5.3 "Explain the relationships or interactions between individuals, events, ideas or concepts in a historical, scientific or technical text based on specific information over the course of a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what happens to rainwater on pavement, circle what happens to it in the rain garden, and number two details that explain the difference.

A Garden That Slows the Rain

1. After a hard rain, water once rushed across the pavement outside a neighborhood library. The pavement could not soak it up, so the water carried bits of dirt toward a street drain. When too much rain arrived at once, water pooled beside the library door. Neighbors wanted to slow that rush before it reached the drain.

2. The neighbors removed a strip of pavement and built a rain garden in its place. They shaped the ground into a shallow dip and filled it with loose soil and plants. Rainwater from the nearby walkway flowed into the dip instead of racing straight toward the drain. As water paused there, some of it sank into the soil.

3. The plants' roots helped keep the soil open, making it easier for water to sink in. Soil also trapped some of the dirt the water carried from the walkway. During a very heavy storm, the garden could fill up. Extra water then flowed to the street drain, but the garden had already slowed and absorbed part of the rush.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the pavement help cause water to pool beside the library door?

2. How did the neighbors' changes to the ground change the path of rainwater from the walkway?

3. How did the plants and soil work together to change what happened to the water and dirt?

4. During a very heavy storm, how did the rain garden and street drain work together?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine someone covers the rain garden's soil with a sheet of plastic before the next storm. In three sentences, predict how this might affect the rainwater and the street drain. Use at least two details from the passage to explain why.

Where Rain Goes

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what happens to rainwater on pavement, circle what happens to it in the rain garden, and number two details that explain the difference. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the pavement help cause water to pool beside the library door?	**Pavement could not soak up rainwater, so the water rushed across it and pooled by the door when too much rain arrived at once.**
2	How did the neighbors' changes to the ground change the path of rainwater from the walkway?	**The shallow dip directed rainwater into the garden instead of straight toward the drain, where some water sank into the loose soil.**
3	How did the plants and soil work together to change what happened to the water and dirt?	**Roots helped keep the soil open so water could sink in, while the soil trapped some dirt carried by the water.**
4	During a very heavy storm, how did the rain garden and street drain work together?	**The garden slowed and absorbed some rainwater. If it filled, extra water flowed to the street drain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The plastic would keep much of the rainwater from sinking into the garden's loose soil. Water might fill the shallow dip faster because the soil could not absorb as much of it. More water could then reach the street drain during the storm.

Accept predictions that connect the plastic cover to reduced soaking and a possible change in how quickly or how much water reaches the drain. Students should support the prediction with two accurate passage details.