Where Rain Goes

Use details about rain gardens to support claims and inferences.

RI.8.1 "Cite relevant textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that state what runoff does in a rain garden, and circle two details that could support an inference about the garden's limits.

A Garden Built for Rain

1 After a storm, water racing across a parking lot can pick up oil, grit, and bits of litter. In many neighborhoods, a storm drain sends this runoff toward a nearby stream with little treatment. A rain garden offers another route. It is a shallow planted area set lower than the pavement around it. A gap in the curb lets some runoff flow into the garden, where water spreads out instead of rushing straight into a pipe. The garden looks ordinary on a dry day, but its shape matters when rain falls.

2 Below the plants, loose soil gives water space to soak in. Roots help keep channels open in the soil, while a layer of mulch can catch some sediment carried by runoff. These features do not make every storm disappear. During a heavy downpour, water may arrive faster than the ground can absorb it. A well-designed garden therefore has an overflow route that directs extra water toward a drain rather than toward a building. Its size and location must match the area that sends water into it.

3 Rain gardens also need care after they are built. Leaves and trash can block the opening where runoff enters. Sediment may collect on the surface, making it harder for water to soak in. Workers or volunteers can clear the opening, remove built-up sediment, and replace plants that die. Even with regular care, a rain garden is only one tool for managing runoff. Streets still need drains, especially during intense storms. The strongest plans give water several safe paths instead of relying on a single patch of plants.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What happens to runoff when it enters the garden? Cite a detail from paragraph 1.

2. What can you infer about how a rain garden might keep some grit out of a stream? Support your inference with two details from the passage.

3. Why does a well-designed rain garden need an overflow route? Cite evidence from paragraph 2.

4. What can you infer might happen if leaves block a rain garden's entrance? Support your inference with two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A neighborhood is choosing between Site A, beside pavement with a curb opening and loose soil, and Site B, far from pavement with packed soil. In three or four sentences, recommend a site, cite two distinct details from the passage, and explain one reason your choice cannot handle every storm.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rain Goes

GRADE 8 · RI.8.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that state what runoff does in a rain garden, and circle two details that could support an inference about the garden's limits. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happens to runoff when it enters the garden? Cite a detail from paragraph 1.	**It spreads out rather than rushing straight into a pipe. Paragraph 1 says water enters through a curb gap, then "spreads out instead of rushing straight into a pipe."**
2	What can you infer about how a rain garden might keep some grit out of a stream? Support your inference with two details from the passage.	**Some grit may stay in the garden instead of reaching the stream. Runoff can carry grit toward a stream, but some runoff enters the garden, where mulch can catch sediment.**
3	Why does a well-designed rain garden need an overflow route? Cite evidence from paragraph 2.	**In a heavy downpour, water may arrive faster than the ground can absorb it. An overflow route directs that extra water toward a drain rather than a building.**
4	What can you infer might happen if leaves block a rain garden's entrance? Support your inference with two details from the passage.	**The garden may collect less runoff. The passage says runoff enters through a curb gap and that leaves and trash can block the opening where runoff enters.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend Site A, beside the pavement with a curb opening and loose soil. The passage says, "A gap in the curb lets some runoff flow into the garden," so Site A could collect water from the pavement. It also says, "loose soil gives water space to soak in," unlike Site B's packed soil. Site A would still need an overflow route because a heavy downpour can bring water faster than the ground can absorb it.

Accept accurate paraphrases as evidence when they point to specific passage details. For the open task, look for a recommendation supported by two distinct details and a limitation grounded in the passage.