Follow the Rain

Use text evidence to explain how a rain garden works.

RI.5.1 "Cite multiple pieces of 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 explain how the garden handles rainwater. Circle two details that help you infer why the garden needs care.

A Garden That Catches Rain

1 During a heavy rain, water hits roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots. These hard surfaces do not soak up much water. Instead, water rushes across them, picking up dirt and bits of trash. Street drains carry much of this runoff toward streams. A rain garden offers another path. It is a shallow, planted dip in the ground that collects water from nearby hard surfaces.

2 Water can enter a rain garden through a gap in a curb or a small channel. The dip holds it for a short time, so it does not race straight into a drain. Loose soil lets water slowly sink below the surface. Plant roots make spaces in the soil and take in some water. If the ground becomes packed tight, water sinks more slowly.

3 Rain gardens can help living things, too. Flowers on native plants provide nectar for bees and butterflies. Their seeds may feed birds later in the year. However, a garden can change as it grows. Weeds may crowd out the chosen plants, and fallen leaves may block the water's entrance. People can pull weeds and clear the entrance so rain can still flow in.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might runoff from a parking lot make a stream dirtier? Use two details from the text.

2. How does a rain garden keep some water from rushing straight into a drain? Use two details from the text.

3. What might happen if the soil in a rain garden becomes packed tight? Support your answer with two details from the text.

4. What evidence shows that rain garden plants can help more than one kind of animal? Give two details.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A class plans to plant a rain garden and then stop checking it. In two or three sentences, explain why that plan might fail over time. Use at least two different details from the text as evidence.

ANSWER KEY

Follow the Rain

GRADE 5 · RI.5.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that explain how the garden handles rainwater. Circle two details that help you infer why the garden needs care. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might runoff from a parking lot make a stream dirtier? Use two details from the text.	**Runoff picks up dirt and bits of trash as it crosses hard surfaces, and street drains carry much of that runoff toward streams.**
2	How does a rain garden keep some water from rushing straight into a drain? Use two details from the text.	**The shallow dip holds water for a short time, and loose soil lets the water sink below the surface.**
3	What might happen if the soil in a rain garden becomes packed tight? Support your answer with two details from the text.	**Water would sink more slowly. The text says loose soil lets water sink and that water sinks more slowly when ground becomes packed tight.**
4	What evidence shows that rain garden plants can help more than one kind of animal? Give two details.	**Flowers provide nectar for bees and butterflies, and seeds may feed birds later in the year.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The garden might stop collecting water well if the class never checks it. The text says weeds may crowd out the chosen plants. It also says fallen leaves may block the water's entrance, so rain might not flow in.

Accept answers that make a passage-based claim and support it with two distinct, relevant details. Students may paraphrase the text rather than quote it.