A Garden at Work

Trace two central ideas across an informational text.

RI.5.2 "Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one detail about how the garden handles rain and circle one detail about how it helps insects. Use your marks to track how both ideas develop.

The Library Rain Garden

1. After a hard rain, water once rushed across the sidewalk outside a neighborhood library. It carried bits of soil toward the street drain and left puddles near the door. The library replaced a patch of pavement with a rain garden, a shallow planting area. Staff hoped it would slow the water. They also chose flowering plants that could offer food to bees and butterflies.

2. When rain falls on the library roof, a short channel guides some of the water into the garden. Its loose soil lets water sink into the ground instead of racing across the sidewalk. Plant roots help hold the soil in place. Between storms, the plants grow taller and provide places where insects can rest. The same garden works during wet days and dry ones.

3. By late summer, flowers in the garden draw bees and butterflies that feed on nectar. Their visits can help flowering plants make seeds. Fallen leaves around the plants also give some insects shelter. In autumn, library workers clear the channel so rain can still enter the garden. They leave some plant stems standing through winter, giving insects places to shelter until warmer weather returns.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What are two central ideas of the passage? Give one detail from paragraph 1 that supports each idea.

2. How does paragraph 2 develop the idea about rainwater introduced in paragraph 1?

3. How does the passage add to the idea about helping insects from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?

4. How do the workers' two autumn choices in paragraph 3 support the passage's two central ideas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence objective summary of the passage. Include both central ideas and show how details develop from the beginning through the end, without adding your opinion.

ANSWER KEY

A Garden at Work

GRADE 5 · RI.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one detail about how the garden handles rain and circle one detail about how it helps insects. Use your marks to track how both ideas develop. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two central ideas of the passage? Give one detail from paragraph 1 that supports each idea.	**The garden helps manage rainwater, and it helps insects. Paragraph 1 says staff hoped it would slow water and chose flowers that could feed bees and butterflies.**
2	How does paragraph 2 develop the idea about rainwater introduced in paragraph 1?	**Paragraph 1 says the garden was meant to slow water that rushed across the sidewalk. Paragraph 2 explains how a channel directs rain into the garden, where loose soil lets it sink into the ground.**
3	How does the passage add to the idea about helping insects from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?	**Paragraph 1 introduces flowers as food for bees and butterflies. Paragraph 3 adds that flowers provide nectar and that leaves and standing stems provide shelter.**
4	How do the workers' two autumn choices in paragraph 3 support the passage's two central ideas?	**Clearing the channel lets rain enter the garden, supporting its role in managing water. Leaving stems standing gives insects shelter through winter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A library replaces pavement with a rain garden to reduce sidewalk runoff and provide food for insects. Rain flows from the roof through a channel into loose soil, where it can sink into the ground. As the plants grow, they give insects places to rest, and their flowers offer nectar. In autumn, workers clear the water channel and leave stems standing so the garden can keep managing rain and sheltering insects.

Accept equivalent wording that identifies both rainwater management and support for insects. Summaries should cover the beginning, middle, and end without personal opinions or unsupported claims.