Where Soil Goes

Use clues from a rainstorm to trace moving soil.

E.2.10.4 "Use informational text, other media, and first-hand observations to investigate and communicate the process and consequences of soil erosion."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two clues Nia saw that soil moved. Circle two ways lost soil can affect living things.

After the Rain

1. After a hard rain, Nia looked at the bare dirt beside the school path. Thin lines cut through the dirt. At the bottom of the hill, she found a small pile of loose soil. The rain had moved it downhill.

2. Nearby, grass covered another part of the hill. Nia saw no deep lines there. Grass roots held the soil in place. When rainwater carries soil away, it is called soil erosion. Bare ground can lose soil more easily than ground with grass.

3. Nia read that muddy water can carry loose soil into a stream. The soil may cover fish eggs on small rocks there. Rain can also wash away topsoil, the layer where many plants grow. Plants may then have trouble growing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Nia see that shows rain moved soil downhill?

2. How did the grass change what happened to the soil on the other part of the hill?

3. According to Nia's reading, how could soil washed into a stream affect fish?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a place you have seen soil outdoors, other than Nia's hill. Write two sentences: describe what you saw there, then predict where rain could move the soil and what might change.

ANSWER KEY

Where Soil Goes

GRADE 2 · E.2.10.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two clues Nia saw that soil moved. Circle two ways lost soil can affect living things. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Nia see that shows rain moved soil downhill?	**She saw thin lines in the dirt and a pile of loose soil at the bottom of the hill.**
2	How did the grass change what happened to the soil on the other part of the hill?	**Grass roots held the soil in place, and Nia saw no deep lines there.**
3	According to Nia's reading, how could soil washed into a stream affect fish?	**The soil may cover fish eggs on small rocks in the stream.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I saw loose soil around a tree near my home. Rain might carry it onto the sidewalk, leaving less soil by the tree.

For the marking job, accept the lines in the dirt and the pile of loose soil as clues, and covered fish eggs and trouble growing as effects. For Your Turn, accept a specific outdoor observation and a reasonable prediction that names where soil could move and what could change.