# Where Soil Goes

Compare what happens when water flows over bare and grassy soil.

**E.2.10** "Students will demonstrate an understanding of how humans use Earth's resources. Use informational text, other media, and first-hand observations to investigate, analyze, and compare the properties of Earth materials (including rocks…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the words that show how water moved soil on the bare hill, and circle the words that show how grass helped keep soil in place.

### Two Hills in the Garden

1. At the school garden, Mia and Ben found two small hills of soil. One hill was bare. Grass grew on the other hill. They put a pan below each hill and poured the same amount of water onto both.

2. On the bare hill, water ran downhill and carried loose soil into the pan. The water in the pan turned brown. This movement of soil by water is called erosion. Erosion can leave less soil for plants to grow in.

3. On the grassy hill, the water ran more slowly. The grass roots held much of the soil in place, so less soil reached the pan. Planting grass on bare ground can help keep soil from washing away during rain.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which hill lost more soil? What detail from the text tells you?

2. How did water cause erosion on the bare hill? Why could this be a problem for plants?

3. How did the grass change what happened to the water and soil?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A bare patch of soil beside a walkway washes away when it rains. Write two sentences: tell where you would plant grass to protect the patch, then tell what you would look for after rain to check whether your plan worked.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Where Soil Goes

**GRADE 2 · E.2.10**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show how water moved soil on the bare hill, and circle the words that show how grass helped keep soil in place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Which hill lost more soil? What detail from the text tells you? | **The bare hill lost more soil. Water carried loose soil from it into the pan, while less soil reached the pan below the grassy hill.** |
| 2 | How did water cause erosion on the bare hill? Why could this be a problem for plants? | **Water carried soil downhill. Plants could have less soil to grow in.** |
| 3 | How did the grass change what happened to the water and soil? | **The water ran more slowly, and the grass roots held much of the soil in place.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would plant grass on the bare patch beside the walkway. After rain, I would look for less soil washed onto the walkway.

Accept plans that place grass on the bare patch and check for a visible sign of less erosion after rain, such as less soil on the walkway.