

# Water Wise Gardens

Study how a model text introduces and organizes a topic.

**5W2.a** "Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general focus, and organize related information logically."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the two opening sentences that introduce the topic and its focus, number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the order of ideas, and circle one supporting detail in each of the last two paragraphs.

### Rain Gardens at Work

- ① Rain gardens are shallow planted areas that collect rainwater from roofs, sidewalks, and driveways. They can help a neighborhood handle heavy rain without sending as much water into storm drains. A rain garden is not a pond. After a storm, its soil slowly soaks up water, while its plants help hold the soil in place.
- ② First, builders choose a low spot where water can flow into the garden safely. They shape a shallow bowl and add soil that lets water pass through. Next, they plant native grasses, flowers, or shrubs. Deep plant roots make small spaces in the ground, so water can move downward instead of rushing across nearby pavement.
- ③ During storms, the garden holds water for a short time, then releases it slowly into the ground. This can reduce puddles and can keep some pollution from reaching streams. Deep roots help the soil stay in place, even when rain falls hard. By slowing and soaking up water, rain gardens help protect nearby streets and streams.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Which two opening sentences introduce rain gardens and state the passage's general focus?

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**2** What is the main idea of paragraph 2? Give two details that support it.

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**3** What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Name two details that support this idea.

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**4** How are the three paragraphs organized from beginning to end?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose a useful system at school, such as a compost bin, library checkout, or recycling. Write one informative paragraph of 5 or 6 sentences. Introduce the topic and focus in the first two sentences, then organize related details in a clear order.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the two opening sentences that introduce the topic and its focus, number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the order of ideas, and circle one supporting detail in each of the last two paragraphs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                  | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Which two opening sentences introduce rain gardens and state the passage's general focus? | <b>"Rain gardens are shallow planted areas that collect rainwater from roofs, sidewalks, and driveways." and "They can help a neighborhood handle heavy rain without sending as much water into storm drains."</b> |
| 2 | What is the main idea of paragraph 2? Give two details that support it.                   | <b>Paragraph 2 explains how a rain garden is built. Builders choose a low spot, shape a shallow bowl, add soil, and plant native plants with deep roots.</b>                                                       |
| 3 | What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Name two details that support this idea.            | <b>Paragraph 3 explains how rain gardens help during storms. They hold and slowly release water, reduce puddles, keep some pollution from streams, and help soil stay in place.</b>                                |
| 4 | How are the three paragraphs organized from beginning to end?                             | <b>The passage begins by introducing rain gardens and their purpose, then explains how they are built, and ends by explaining how they work and help the area.</b>                                                 |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Our school compost bin turns fruit peels, vegetable scraps, and dry leaves into useful soil. It works best when students know what belongs in it and how to care for it. First, students add plant-based scraps and cover them with dry leaves. Next, helpers stir the pile so air can reach the materials. Over time, the materials break down into dark compost. The compost can feed flowers in the school garden.

Accept answers that identify the introduction and focus, explain the paragraph sequence, and use details from the matching paragraph. For the writing task, accept any school-related topic with a clear introduction, stated focus, and logically grouped details.