

Compost Connections

Notice how linking language connects information in a model science paragraph.

5W2.d "Use appropriate transitional/linking words, phrases, and clauses to clarify and connect ideas and concepts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each transitional or linking word or phrase, and underline each whole linking clause. Mark language that connects ideas by order or time, addition, contrast, cause and effect, or an example, not words that only join list items or describe a noun.

How Compost Works

- ① Compost turns food scraps and yard waste into a dark material that can help soil. First, workers layer dry leaves with vegetable peels and grass clippings. Next, tiny organisms break down the layers when air and moisture are available. Because the pile needs oxygen, workers turn it with a fork. This mixing helps the organisms continue their work.
- ② As the pile warms, the organisms work faster, but extreme heat can slow them. In addition, a covered bin can keep heavy rain from making the pile too wet. For example, a lid with air holes lets oxygen enter while blocking much of the rain. After several months, the scraps may become crumbly compost ready for use.
- ③ Finished compost can improve soil structure, so gardeners often mix it into garden beds. It also adds some nutrients; however, compost is not a complete fertilizer for every plant. Therefore, gardeners may test their soil before adding other nutrients. When compost is spread around plants, it can help the soil hold water. As a result, gardeners may need to water less often.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 In paragraph 1, how do *First* and *Next* connect the ideas? State what happens first and what happens next.

2 What cause and effect does the clause beginning with *Because* show in paragraph 1?

3 What contrast does *but* show in paragraph 2?

4 In paragraph 3, what relationship is signaled by *As a result*?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how to start a compost pile. Use an order or time transition, an addition transition, and a cause-and-effect word or phrase to connect your ideas.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each transitional or linking word or phrase, and underline each whole linking clause. Mark language that connects ideas by order or time, addition, contrast, cause and effect, or an example, not words that only join list items or describe a noun. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, how do <i>First</i> and <i>Next</i> connect the ideas? State what happens first and what happens next.	They show order. First, workers layer leaves, peels, and grass clippings. Next, tiny organisms break down the layers.
2	What cause and effect does the clause beginning with <i>Because</i> show in paragraph 1?	The pile needs oxygen, so workers turn it with a fork.
3	What contrast does <i>but</i> show in paragraph 2?	Warming helps organisms work faster, but extreme heat can slow them.
4	In paragraph 3, what relationship is signaled by <i>As a result</i> ?	Compost helps soil hold water, so gardeners may need to water less often.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, place dry leaves and vegetable scraps in a bin. Next, add a small amount of water. In addition, turn the pile so air can reach it. As a result, organisms can break down the materials.

Accept equivalent explanations of the relationships named in the passage. For the marking task, accept clear linking language showing the listed relationships, including whole time or cause-and-effect clauses, but not list-joining words or relative clauses.