

Scraps to Soil

Study how an informational text explains a useful process.

5W2 "Write informative/explanatory texts to explore a topic and convey ideas and information relevant to the subject."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main idea sentence in each paragraph. Circle two facts or examples in each paragraph that help explain or support that main idea.

How Composting Helps

- ① A compost bin turns certain leftovers into a crumbly material that can help plants grow. Instead of sending banana peels, dry leaves, and vegetable scraps to a landfill, people can collect them in a bin. Composting is not magic. Tiny organisms, including bacteria and fungi, break down the materials over time. The finished compost can be mixed into garden soil to improve it.
- ② A good compost pile needs a balance of wet, green materials and dry, brown materials. Fruit scraps and fresh grass are green materials. Fallen leaves, torn paper without shiny coatings, and small twigs are brown materials. Adding both kinds helps air move through the pile and prevents it from becoming too soggy. People should not add meat, dairy products, or oily foods because these can attract pests.
- ③ Composting works best when the pile is checked regularly. Once each week, a gardener can stir the materials with a tool to bring in oxygen. If the pile seems dry, adding a little water may help. After several months, the materials may look dark and smell earthy. By turning scraps into compost, a family can reduce waste and make a useful soil helper.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What topic does the first paragraph introduce, and what can finished compost do?

2 How do the examples of green and brown materials help explain what makes a good compost pile?

3 Why does the author include the warning about meat, dairy products, and oily foods?

4 How does the final sentence help conclude the text?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence informative paragraph about how a reusable water bottle helps at school. Begin with a topic sentence, include at least three accurate details, use a linking word, and end with a closing sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the main idea sentence in each paragraph. Circle two facts or examples in each paragraph that help explain or support that main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the first paragraph introduce, and what can finished compost do?	It introduces composting, which turns leftovers into material that can be mixed into garden soil to help plants grow.
2	How do the examples of green and brown materials help explain what makes a good compost pile?	They show which common items belong to the two groups needed to create a balanced pile.
3	Why does the author include the warning about meat, dairy products, and oily foods?	The warning explains that these foods can attract pests, so people should not add them.
4	How does the final sentence help conclude the text?	It states the benefits of composting, reducing waste and making a useful material for soil.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A reusable water bottle helps students carry drinks during the school day. Many bottles have a lid that reduces spills in a backpack. A student can refill the bottle at a drinking fountain when it is empty. In addition, using the same bottle can reduce the number of single-use bottles thrown away. Washing the bottle regularly helps keep it clean. For these reasons, a reusable water bottle is a useful school item.

Accept answers that accurately explain the author's topic, relevant details, warning, and conclusion. For the paragraph, look for six sentences with a clear topic, accurate supporting details, a linking word, and a closing sentence.