Rain Garden Evidence

Study how well-chosen details make an explanation clear.

8W2.b "Develop a topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples; include formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the definition of **rain garden**, circle two concrete details, and number two facts, measurements, or quotations that develop the topic. These details show readers how the writer explains the topic clearly.

How Rain Gardens Handle Runoff

1 After a hard rain, water rushing off roofs and parking lots can carry oil, soil, and litter into storm drains. A **rain garden** is a shallow planted area that collects this runoff so it can soak into the ground. It is not a pond. Its soil and plant roots slow the water, while the garden's low center holds water for a short time. In a schoolyard, a rain garden can turn an unused patch of lawn into a working part of the drainage system.

2 Size matters when planners choose a location. One inch of rain falling on a 1,000-square-foot roof produces about 623 gallons of water. Directing that water toward a planted basin can reduce the amount entering a storm drain at once. The garden must be placed where water naturally flows and away from building foundations. Designers often use native plants because their deep roots help create spaces in the soil. A curb cut, a small opening in the curb, can guide runoff safely into the garden.

3 Rain gardens need care, not just construction. During the first growing season, volunteers should water new plants and remove weeds. After storms, they can check whether mulch has washed away or whether a curb cut is blocked by leaves. "The water was gone by the next day," wrote a student observer after a moderate storm. That observation is useful because standing water should usually drain within about 24 to 48 hours. By combining a definition, measurement, details, and an observation, an explanation shows both how a rain garden works and why its design matters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the definition of a rain garden in paragraph 1 help the reader understand the topic?

2. What measurement does the writer include in paragraph 2, and what does it show about runoff?

3. Name two concrete details from paragraph 3 that show how people care for a rain garden.

4. Why is the student's quotation about water being gone by the next day useful evidence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one 75-to-100-word informational paragraph explaining a useful improvement for your school. Include a bold definition of a key term, one precise measurement from a reliable source or your own observation, and two concrete details that explain how the improvement would work.

ANSWER KEY

Rain Garden Evidence

GRADE 8 · 8W2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the definition of **rain garden**, circle two concrete details, and number two facts, measurements, or quotations that develop the topic. These details show readers how the writer explains the topic clearly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the definition of a rain garden in paragraph 1 help the reader understand the topic?	**It explains that a rain garden is a shallow planted area that collects runoff so the water can soak into the ground. It also clarifies that it is not a pond.**
2	What measurement does the writer include in paragraph 2, and what does it show about runoff?	**One inch of rain on a 1,000-square-foot roof produces about 623 gallons of water. This shows that even a small amount of rain can create a large amount of runoff.**
3	Name two concrete details from paragraph 3 that show how people care for a rain garden.	**Answers include watering new plants, removing weeds, checking for washed-away mulch, and checking whether leaves block a curb cut.**
4	Why is the student's quotation about water being gone by the next day useful evidence?	**It gives a specific observation after a moderate storm. It supports the information that standing water in a rain garden should usually drain within about 24 to 48 hours.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A **refill station** is a drinking fountain designed to fill reusable bottles quickly. Installing one near the gym would make water easier to get after exercise. Its sensor turns on when a bottle is placed below the spout, so students do not need to press a handle with sweaty hands. During one lunch period, I counted 18 students waiting at the nearby fountain. A refill station could shorten that line and help students choose tap water instead of buying bottled drinks.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect each selected detail to the writer's purpose. For the paragraph, check for a clear topic, a bold definition, a precise measurement, and at least two relevant concrete details.