Where Rain Goes

Trace a text's main ideas and put key explanations in your own words

10.2.R.1 "Students will summarize the main ideas and paraphrase significant parts of increasingly complex texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs to show how the explanation develops. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that belongs in a summary, and circle a phrase that shows a limit of rain gardens.

A Different Route for Rain

1 After a heavy storm, water races across a school parking lot, carrying grit and oil toward a street drain. The drain moves water away quickly, but it does not make the water clean. In many places, that runoff travels through pipes into a stream, where sudden surges can wear away banks and cloud the water. A rain garden offers a different route. It is a shallow planted area designed to receive runoff from hard surfaces. Instead of sending every drop straight into a pipe, a site can direct some water into this planted space.

2 A rain garden is not simply a flower bed in a low spot. Its location and soil must allow water to soak in without threatening nearby buildings. A curb opening or a sloped path guides runoff into the planted basin. As water pools briefly, sediment can settle and soil can trap some pollutants. Plants take up some water, while much of the rest filters downward. Designers include an overflow route for storms that deliver more water than the basin can hold. A successful garden usually drains within a day or two, which helps prevent standing water from becoming a mosquito habitat.

3 Rain gardens can reduce the amount of runoff reaching storm drains, but their impact depends on what flows into them and how they are cared for. Leaves and litter may block the opening, and compacted soil slows drainage. Workers must remove debris, replace struggling plants, and check that overflow still has a safe path. A rain garden also cannot absorb every storm, especially when rain falls faster than water can enter the soil. Its value lies in handling some ordinary runoff while adding green space, not in replacing every pipe or eliminating all flood risk.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In your own words, summarize the problem with sending all parking-lot runoff into street drains.

2. Paraphrase how a rain garden handles water from the time it enters the planted area until it leaves.

3. Put the passage's explanation of maintenance into your own words. Why does care affect how well a rain garden works?

4. Summarize the passage's main idea in two sentences. Include both what rain gardens can do and what they cannot do.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph addressed to a school principal proposing a rain garden for a specific spot on campus. Using ideas from the passage in your own words, explain why that spot is suitable, how the garden would handle runoff, and one condition the school would need to plan for.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rain Goes

GRADE 10 · 10.2.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs to show how the explanation develops. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that belongs in a summary, and circle a phrase that shows a limit of rain gardens. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In your own words, summarize the problem with sending all parking-lot runoff into street drains.	**Drains carry runoff away, but the water may still contain grit and oil. When it reaches a stream, a sudden rush can erode banks and make the water cloudy.**
2	Paraphrase how a rain garden handles water from the time it enters the planted area until it leaves.	**A curb opening or slope sends water into the basin. Some sediment settles, soil traps some pollutants, plants use some water, and much of the rest soaks downward. Extra water follows an overflow route.**
3	Put the passage's explanation of maintenance into your own words. Why does care affect how well a rain garden works?	**Debris can block the entrance, and packed soil can slow drainage. Clearing litter, tending plants, and checking the overflow help water move through safely.**
4	Summarize the passage's main idea in two sentences. Include both what rain gardens can do and what they cannot do.	**Rain gardens direct some runoff into planted soil, where water can soak in instead of all flowing into drains. They need suitable sites and upkeep, and they cannot absorb every storm or replace drainage pipes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal, I propose placing a rain garden beside the paved walkway near our cafeteria, where rain could be directed from the pavement into a shallow planted area. The soil and plants would hold some water long enough for it to soak in, reducing the amount that reaches the street drain. Before building it, we would need to check that water can drain safely away from the cafeteria. A planned overflow path and regular clearing of litter would help it work during storms.

Accept accurate paraphrases that preserve the distinction between reducing runoff and eliminating it. For the proposal, accept any plausible campus location if the student explains how runoff would reach the garden and identifies a relevant planning or maintenance need.