Garden Helpers

Find the main idea and the details that support it.

3.2.R.1 "Students will determine the main idea and supporting details of a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells the main idea of the whole passage. Circle one detail in each paragraph that supports that idea.

Small Helpers in the Garden

1. A garden is busy even when no people are working there. On a sunny morning, a bee lands on a squash flower to drink nectar. Yellow pollen sticks to its fuzzy body. When the bee visits another squash flower, some pollen rubs off. This helps the plant make squash. Bees move pollen between many kinds of flowers as they look for food.

2. Under a leaf, a ladybug finds tiny insects called aphids. Aphids drink juice from plant stems and leaves. Too many aphids can hurt a plant. A ladybug eats aphids, so fewer are left to feed on the garden plants. Young ladybugs, called larvae, also eat aphids. These small hunters help protect plants without a gardener having to pick off every aphid.

3. Below the soil, earthworms do a different job. They move through the dirt and leave small tunnels behind. Air and water can travel through these spaces to plant roots. Earthworms also eat dead leaves and other old plant bits. Their waste adds nutrients to the soil. Bees, ladybugs, and earthworms each help a garden in their own way.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the whole passage? Tell it in your own words.

2. How does the bee's visit to another flower support the main idea?

3. Which details in the second paragraph show how ladybugs help garden plants?

4. What two details about earthworms support the passage's main idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a place you know. Write two details about it, then write one sentence that tells the main idea those details support. Underline your main idea sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Helpers

GRADE 3 · 3.2.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells the main idea of the whole passage. Circle one detail in each paragraph that supports that idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of the whole passage? Tell it in your own words.	**Bees, ladybugs, and earthworms help a garden in different ways.**
2	How does the bee's visit to another flower support the main idea?	**The bee moves pollen to another flower, helping the plant make squash.**
3	Which details in the second paragraph show how ladybugs help garden plants?	**Aphids can hurt plants, and both adult and young ladybugs eat aphids.**
4	What two details about earthworms support the passage's main idea?	**Their tunnels let air and water reach roots, and their waste adds nutrients to the soil.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the library, people can borrow books about space. They can also borrow stories about animals. The library has books about many topics.

For the marking job, accept the final sentence as the underlined main idea and any accurate supporting detail circled in each paragraph. For Your Turn, accept any two related details followed by an underlined main idea that both details support.