Worms at Work

Read one source, then organize facts for your own writing.

3.6.W.3 "Students will write informative texts independently for short timeframes (e.g., a single sitting or a day or two) that organize related information about a topic and convey details from a single source."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3. In each paragraph, underline two facts that belong together so you can see how the writer groups information.

Inside an Earthworm's World

1. After rain, an earthworm may appear on a path, but most of its life is spent in soil. An earthworm has no lungs. It takes in oxygen through its damp skin. Dry skin makes this hard, so worms stay in moist places. They dig tunnels below the surface, where the soil is often cooler and wetter than the ground above it.

2. Earthworms eat bits of dead leaves and other plant parts mixed into the soil. As they feed, they swallow some soil, too. Their waste, called castings, adds nutrients to the soil. Plants use these nutrients as they grow. Worm tunnels also let air and water move through the ground. These changes can make soil a better place for plant roots.

3. An earthworm has tiny bristles on its body. The bristles grip the soil while the worm stretches and pulls itself forward. A worm can move deeper underground when the surface gets too dry. It also stays away from many hungry birds by hiding in its tunnels. After rain, the wet ground lets some worms move across the surface without drying out.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the first paragraph mostly about? Give one detail that supports your answer.

2. Which two details in paragraph 2 belong under the heading “What Earthworms Eat”?

3. What is the third paragraph mostly about? Give one detail that supports your answer.

4. Choose one fact from paragraph 1 and one from paragraph 3 that help explain why some worms can move across the ground after rain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Using only the passage, write four or five sentences explaining two ways earthworms help garden plants. Include at least three facts, and keep related facts together.

ANSWER KEY

Worms at Work

GRADE 3 · 3.6.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3. In each paragraph, underline two facts that belong together so you can see how the writer groups information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the first paragraph mostly about? Give one detail that supports your answer.	**It is about where earthworms live and why. They stay in moist places because they take in oxygen through damp skin.**
2	Which two details in paragraph 2 belong under the heading "What Earthworms Eat"?	**Earthworms eat bits of dead leaves and other plant parts, and they swallow some soil.**
3	What is the third paragraph mostly about? Give one detail that supports your answer.	**It is about how earthworms move and stay safe. Their bristles grip the soil as they move.**
4	Choose one fact from paragraph 1 and one from paragraph 3 that help explain why some worms can move across the ground after rain.	**Worms need damp skin to take in oxygen. After rain, the wet ground lets some worms move across the surface without drying out.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Earthworms help garden plants in two ways. As worms feed, their castings add nutrients to the soil that plants use to grow. Worms also dig tunnels through the ground. These tunnels let air and water move through the soil, making it a better place for plant roots.

For the marking job, accept any two related facts underlined in each paragraph. For Your Turn, accept four or five sentences that explain two benefits using at least three accurate facts from the passage, with related facts grouped together.