Where Rain Goes

Use context clues to learn and apply new words.

4.4.R.5 "Students will acquire new grade-level vocabulary, relate new words to prior knowledge, and apply vocabulary in various contexts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each bold word in the passage. Circle nearby words that help you figure out what it means.

Maya's Rainy Schoolyard

1 After a thunderstorm, Maya noticed a muddy ribbon of water crossing the schoolyard. Rain fell on the roof and pavement, then flowed toward the drain. This moving rainwater was **runoff**. It carried leaves and bits of soil with it. Maya wondered why the small garden beside the school stayed damp while the paved yard dried so quickly.

2 At the garden, Maya pressed a finger into the dark soil. It was damp several inches down. The soil could **absorb** water, taking it in like a sponge, while pavement left water on the surface. Near the drain, rushing water had swept away a strip of loose soil. Maya's teacher called this loss of soil **erosion**.

3 The class wanted to slow the water before it reached the drain. They spread wood chips over bare soil and planted grasses with roots that helped hold it in place. For a walking path, they chose **permeable** gravel instead of solid concrete. Rain could pass through spaces between the small stones and soak into the ground below. On the next rainy day, Maya watched the path carefully.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does runoff mean? Give one clue from the passage that helped you decide.

2. How is the garden soil like a sponge when it absorbs water? Use a detail from the passage.

3. A storm washes soil off a hill. Which bold word names what happened to the soil? What clue in the passage supports your answer?

4. Which would be more permeable, a path of loose pebbles or a rubber mat? Explain using a clue from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a rainy day at a playground or sports field. Write three sentences about what happens to the water there. Use two bold words from the passage correctly, and include a clue that shows what each word means.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rain Goes

GRADE 4 · 4.4.R.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each bold word in the passage. Circle nearby words that help you figure out what it means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does runoff mean? Give one clue from the passage that helped you decide.	**Runoff is rainwater that flows over a surface. The passage says rain flowed from the roof and pavement toward the drain.**
2	How is the garden soil like a sponge when it absorbs water? Use a detail from the passage.	**Both take in water. Maya found that the garden soil was damp several inches down.**
3	A storm washes soil off a hill. Which bold word names what happened to the soil? What clue in the passage supports your answer?	**Erosion. In the passage, rushing water swept away a strip of loose soil.**
4	Which would be more permeable, a path of loose pebbles or a rubber mat? Explain using a clue from the passage.	**A path of loose pebbles would be more permeable. The passage says rain passes through spaces between pieces of gravel.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After a storm, water rushed across the playground blacktop as runoff instead of sinking in. The grass beside the swings began to absorb some of that water into its soil. Soon the puddle on the grass was smaller.

Accept answers that use passage clues to support the word meanings. For the open task, look for three sentences, two correctly used bold words, and a meaning clue for each word.