Garden Fact Finder

Choose facts that answer a research question

4.6.R.3 "Students will determine the relevance of the information gathered."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts that help answer the class's research question, and circle two facts that do not help.

Where Should the Tomatoes Grow?

1. Ms. Chen's class wants to grow tomatoes in the schoolyard. Their research question is, "Which spot gives tomato plants the light and water they need?" Tomato plants grow best with at least six hours of direct sun each day. They also need regular watering. Students checked two spots for three days. Each day, the fence spot got seven hours of direct sun, while the wall spot got only three.

2. The fence spot is near a working outdoor faucet, so students could fill watering cans there. The wall spot is across the yard from the faucet, so students would have to carry water farther. A caretaker said the wall spot stays damp after rain, but a roof blocks its afternoon sun. A robin built a nest near the fence last spring. The class painted the fence blue for the school fair.

3. For planting day, the class will ask volunteers to bring garden gloves and small hand shovels. Ms. Chen has tomato seedlings ready, and students will carry watering cans. The school bought a new basketball hoop last month. At lunch, students voted on a name for the garden. These facts may be useful for other stories, but they do not all help answer the class's question about a planting spot.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two facts about the fence spot best answer the class's research question? Explain why each matters.

2. Is the fact that the wall spot stays damp after rain useful for answering the research question? Explain.

3. The class painted the fence blue. Should that fact help them choose a planting spot? Why or why not?

4. A classmate says the damp wall spot must be best. Which other fact should you check before agreeing, and why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new research question about what volunteers should bring on planting day. Then give two facts from the passage that answer it and one fact you would leave out, explaining why.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Fact Finder

GRADE 4 · 4.6.R.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two facts that help answer the class's research question, and circle two facts that do not help. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two facts about the fence spot best answer the class's research question? Explain why each matters.	**The fence spot gets seven hours of direct sun, meeting the plants' need for at least six hours. It is near a faucet, making regular watering easier.**
2	Is the fact that the wall spot stays damp after rain useful for answering the research question? Explain.	**Yes. It gives information about water at that spot, though the class must also consider sunlight.**
3	The class painted the fence blue. Should that fact help them choose a planting spot? Why or why not?	**No. The fence's color does not tell the class whether the plants will get enough light or water.**
4	A classmate says the damp wall spot must be best. Which other fact should you check before agreeing, and why?	**Check its sunlight. The wall spot gets only three hours of direct sun, but tomato plants grow best with at least six.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

What should volunteers bring on planting day? Volunteers should bring garden gloves. They should also bring small hand shovels. I would leave out the new basketball hoop because it tells nothing about planting supplies.

Accept any marked facts whose connection, or lack of connection, to the planting-spot question is clear. For Your Turn, the two included facts must answer the student's new question, and the excluded fact must not.