Scraps to Soil

Notice how a writer combines details from two sources.

4.6.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 and quotations from two or more sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail from the class log and circle one quote from Ms. Chen in each paragraph. Number the paragraphs to show the order of the compost story.

A School Compost Bin

1. At Maple School, a class started a compost bin to turn scraps into material for its garden. The class log lists banana peels, apple cores, and dry leaves placed in the bin. Ms. Chen, the garden leader, says, "Leave out meat and cheese because they can attract pests." Together, the log and her advice show what belongs in a school compost bin.

2. The class did more than drop scraps into a bin. In the log, students recorded that they mixed in dry leaves and turned the pile each week. Ms. Chen explains, "Air and moisture help tiny living things break down scraps." She also says a pile should feel damp, not soaked. These details explain why students check the bin instead of leaving it alone.

3. After several weeks, the log describes some scraps turning dark and crumbly. Not everything broke down at the same speed, and bits of apple core were still easy to spot. Ms. Chen calls finished compost "food for the soil," which helps explain why the class planned to spread it around garden plants. The two sources tell the story from first scraps to garden use.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the class log and Ms. Chen each help explain what belongs in the compost bin?

2. What part of the compost story does each paragraph explain? Give the three parts in order.

3. Why does the writer place Ms. Chen's quote about air and moisture beside the log's note about turning the pile?

4. What does each source add to the final paragraph's explanation of compost?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph explaining a plan for a new school compost bin. Organize your ideas into what to add and how to care for the bin, using a detail from the class log and one exact quote from Ms. Chen. Name both sources and use your own words for the rest.

ANSWER KEY

Scraps to Soil

GRADE 4 · 4.6.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail from the class log and circle one quote from Ms. Chen in each paragraph. Number the paragraphs to show the order of the compost story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the class log and Ms. Chen each help explain what belongs in the compost bin?	**The log lists fruit scraps and dry leaves that went into the bin. Ms. Chen explains that meat and cheese should stay out because they can attract pests.**
2	What part of the compost story does each paragraph explain? Give the three parts in order.	**Paragraph 1 explains what goes in the bin. Paragraph 2 explains how the class cares for the pile. Paragraph 3 explains what happens to the scraps and how the class plans to use the compost.**
3	Why does the writer place Ms. Chen's quote about air and moisture beside the log's note about turning the pile?	**The log tells what students did, and Ms. Chen's quote helps explain why caring for the pile matters.**
4	What does each source add to the final paragraph's explanation of compost?	**The log describes scraps becoming dark and crumbly. Ms. Chen's quote helps explain why the class plans to put finished compost around garden plants.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school could start a compost bin near the garden. First, we could add fruit scraps and dry leaves. The Maple School class log lists apple cores and leaves, so we could try those too. Next, a team could turn the pile each week, as the log describes. Ms. Chen says, "Air and moisture help tiny living things break down scraps." We could also check that the pile feels damp, not soaked.

Accept different plans that use accurate details from both named sources, include an exact quote from Ms. Chen, and group ideas about adding scraps and caring for the bin.