Gardens Afloat

Read for the main idea and the details worth keeping.

6.2.R.1 "Students will summarize alphabetic and/or multimodal texts, including main idea, to demonstrate comprehension."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence that gives the main idea of the whole passage. Number three details that you would include in a short summary.

A Garden That Floats

1. After a hard rain, a city pond can collect runoff from streets and sidewalks. The water may carry soil, fallen leaves, and bits of trash. Some communities add floating wetlands to ponds to help improve water quality. A floating wetland is a raft planted with water-loving grasses and other native plants. It stays on the surface while the plants' roots hang down into the water. Unlike a garden dug into soil, this garden can be placed where there is no open ground along the pond's edge.

2. The roots do more than grow beneath the raft. They give tiny organisms a place to live. Some of these organisms break down certain pollutants, while the growing plants take in nutrients from the water. Too many nutrients can help algae grow quickly, so removing some may help a pond stay healthier. The dangling roots can also give small fish a place to hide. A floating wetland does not make dirty water safe to drink, and it cannot replace the work of keeping trash and harmful chemicals out of drains.

3. People must care for the raft after it is installed. Workers check that it stays anchored, remove trash caught around it, and replace plants that die. They may also test the water over time to see whether conditions are changing. A floating wetland works best as one part of a larger plan. Cleaning up litter and reducing runoff still matter. Together, those steps can help protect the pond and the animals that live there, even when nearby streets leave little space for a garden on shore.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph? Include one detail that supports it.

2. Summarize two ways the roots help the pond in one sentence.

3. Summarize the care a floating wetland needs after it is installed.

4. What important limit on floating wetlands should a summary include?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence summary of the entire passage for someone who has not read it. State the main idea, explain how the wetland helps, and include why other steps still matter.

ANSWER KEY # Gardens Afloat

GRADE 6 · 6.2.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence that gives the main idea of the whole passage. Number three details that you would include in a short summary. 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 first paragraph? Include one detail that supports it.	**Floating wetlands can help improve pond water quality. They can be placed where there is little open ground along the shore.**
2	Summarize two ways the roots help the pond in one sentence.	**The roots support organisms that break down certain pollutants and give small fish a place to hide.**
3	Summarize the care a floating wetland needs after it is installed.	**Workers check its anchor, clear away trash, replace dead plants, and may test the water.**
4	What important limit on floating wetlands should a summary include?	**They do not make water safe to drink or replace efforts to keep trash and harmful chemicals out of drains.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Floating wetlands are planted rafts that can help improve pond water quality, even where there is little room for a garden on shore. Their plants take in nutrients, while organisms living among the roots break down certain pollutants and the roots shelter small fish. The rafts need care and work best alongside efforts to remove litter and reduce runoff.

Accept accurate paraphrases that focus on central ideas rather than minor details. For the open task, look for a main idea, an explanation of how the wetland helps, and its limits within exactly three sentences.