Where Rain Goes

Study how an informative report uses details, structure, and comparison.

7.3.W.2 "Students will compose informative essays or reports that: • objectively introduce and develop topics • incorporate evidence (e.g., specific facts, details, charts and graphs..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines the topic and the comparison that explains how it works. Circle three supporting facts, then number the paragraphs to show their order.

How a Rain Garden Works

1 After a heavy rain, water can rush across pavement and carry soil, litter, and oil toward a storm drain. A rain garden is a shallow planted area designed to catch some of this runoff. It often sits below a roof downspout or beside a paved surface, where water naturally flows. Unlike a regular flower bed, its shape gives water a place to collect for a short time. Rain gardens are used in yards, school grounds, and public spaces to help manage rainfall close to where it lands.

2 When runoff reaches a rain garden, it spreads across the shallow basin instead of racing straight into a drain. Mulch on the surface can slow the water and help keep soil in place. Below the mulch, loose soil allows water to soak downward, while plant roots make paths through the ground. The garden acts like a sponge: it takes in water during a storm and releases it into the soil over time. These steps reduce the amount of runoff that immediately enters nearby drains.

3 A rain garden does not make every storm drain unnecessary. During a very large storm, water may flow out of the garden through a planned overflow route. Gardeners also need to remove litter, replace worn mulch, and choose plants suited to local conditions. Without this care, the basin may not work as intended. This distinction matters when a community decides where to build one. Together, its basin, soil, and plants manage some rainfall on site, but their effectiveness depends on the garden's design and upkeep.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence defines a rain garden, and how does its wording keep the introduction objective?

2. Choose two details from paragraph 2 that explain how a rain garden manages runoff. Explain what each detail shows.

3. What does each paragraph contribute to the report's explanation? Describe the order of ideas.

4. What comparison helps readers understand how a rain garden works? Why does it fit the report's formal style?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 5- to 6-sentence formal paragraph explaining how a school can use paper more carefully; use at least two of these facts: printing on both sides uses fewer sheets, blank sides of used pages can be reused, and local recycling rules may differ. Begin with an objective topic sentence, organize your details, and include a clear comparison modeled on the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rain Goes

GRADE 7 · 7.3.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines the topic and the comparison that explains how it works. Circle three supporting facts, then number the paragraphs to show their order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence defines a rain garden, and how does its wording keep the introduction objective?	**"A rain garden is a shallow planted area designed to catch some of this runoff." It describes the garden's form and purpose without giving an opinion.**
2	Choose two details from paragraph 2 that explain how a rain garden manages runoff. Explain what each detail shows.	**Mulch slows the water and helps hold soil in place. Loose soil lets water soak downward.**
3	What does each paragraph contribute to the report's explanation? Describe the order of ideas.	**Paragraph 1 defines the rain garden and its purpose. Paragraph 2 explains how it works. Paragraph 3 explains its limits and upkeep.**
4	What comparison helps readers understand how a rain garden works? Why does it fit the report's formal style?	**The garden is compared to a sponge. The comparison clearly explains how it takes in water and lets it move into the soil, without using an exaggerated claim.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school can use paper more carefully by changing how it handles printed pages. Printing on both sides uses fewer sheets than printing on only one side. Students can also use the blank sides of old handouts for notes or drafts. Like a second chapter in a book, the unused side gives each sheet another purpose. After both sides are used, staff can check local recycling rules before placing paper in a bin. These steps reduce unnecessary paper use while keeping the process practical.

For marking, accept any three accurate supporting facts from the passage. For the paragraph, look for five or six sentences, at least two supplied facts, a logical order, a clear comparison, and a formal, objective style.