Find the Fit

Sort research notes and defend your choices.

8.W.5 "Conduct research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study. Formulate a research question. Gather relevant information from multiple sources, using search terms effectively..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HELPS ANSWER

A useful note gives information that helps answer the research question.

Question: Why do dolphins surface? Note: Dolphins breathe air through a blowhole.

DOES NOT HELP

An unrelated note does not help answer the research question, even if it sounds interesting.

Question: Why do dolphins surface? Note: Penguins huddle to stay warm.

1 SORT

8 items

For the question "How do rain gardens reduce street flooding?", circle USEFUL or UNRELATED for each numbered note; then choose two notes, one from each category, and explain why each fits.

1.	A rain garden catches water running off nearby sidewalks.	USEFUL	UNRELATED
2.	A rain garden's shallow basin holds water while it soaks into the soil.	USEFUL	UNRELATED
3.	Some sidewalks have painted murals.	USEFUL	UNRELATED
4.	Plants in rain gardens slow the flow of runoff.	USEFUL	UNRELATED
5.	Rain gardens can bloom with purple flowers.	USEFUL	UNRELATED
6.	Some city buses run on electricity.	USEFUL	UNRELATED
7.	Rain gardens can reduce the amount of runoff entering storm drains.	USEFUL	UNRELATED
8.	A rain garden's soil lets water soak in instead of flowing along a curb.	USEFUL	UNRELATED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two notes, one from each category, and explain why each fits.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For the rain garden question, write one new USEFUL note and one new UNRELATED note without copying a note above.

USEFUL _____

UNRELATED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one UNRELATED note from Part 1 and write a new, focused research question that the note could help answer.

ANSWER KEY # Find the Fit

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A rain garden catches water running off nearby sidewalks.	**USEFUL**	It identifies water the garden keeps from flowing into the street.
2	A rain garden's shallow basin holds water while it soaks into the soil.	**USEFUL**	It explains how the garden holds and absorbs runoff.
3	Some sidewalks have painted murals.	**UNRELATED**	Sidewalk art does not explain how rain gardens reduce flooding.
4	Plants in rain gardens slow the flow of runoff.	**USEFUL**	It describes a way the garden slows water moving toward streets.
5	Rain gardens can bloom with purple flowers.	**UNRELATED**	Flower color does not explain flood reduction.
6	Some city buses run on electricity.	**UNRELATED**	Bus power does not address the research question.
7	Rain gardens can reduce the amount of runoff entering storm drains.	**USEFUL**	It connects rain gardens to less water entering the drainage system.
8	A rain garden's soil lets water soak in instead of flowing along a curb.	**USEFUL**	It explains how absorption can keep water off the street.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two notes, one from each category, and explain why each fits.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **USEFUL**: A rain garden beside a parking lot can collect water that would otherwise flow toward the road.
- **UNRELATED**: Many city parks have basketball courts.

Challenge: Item 5: What color can flowers in rain gardens be?

For Part 2, item 2 explains how a basin holds water so it can soak in, while item 5 describes flower color rather than flood reduction.