Where Rain Goes

Find the main idea and the details that support it.

3.RI.2 "Determine the main idea of a text; identify the key details and explain how they support the main idea."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that best states what rain gardens do. Then number one detail in each paragraph that helps explain that idea.

A Garden That Catches Rain

1. After a hard rain, water races across streets and sidewalks. It cannot sink through pavement, so it flows into storm drains. The water may carry bits of soil, leaves, and other dirt with it. In some places, storm drains lead to nearby streams. A rain garden gives some of that moving water another place to go. It is a shallow patch of ground filled with plants.

2. In a rain garden, a low spot catches water from a roof, sidewalk, or parking lot. The garden holds the water for a short time instead of letting it rush straight to a drain. Water slowly sinks into the loose soil. Many rain gardens have plants that can live through both wet days and dry days. The garden looks simple, but its shape and soil do important work.

3. As rainwater moves through a rain garden, soil can trap some of the dirt it carries. Plant roots help keep the soil in place and make paths for water to soak in. The water does not all disappear at once. A rain garden usually drains within a day or two. By slowing water down and helping it soak into the ground, rain gardens can reduce runoff after storms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the whole passage?

2. How does the detail about pavement in paragraph 1 help explain why a rain garden is useful?

3. Which two details in paragraph 2 show how a rain garden slows water down?

4. How do the details about soil and roots in paragraph 3 support the main idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three or four sentences about a place you know well. State one main idea about that place and give two details that support it. Underline your main idea and number your supporting details.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rain Goes

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that best states what rain gardens do. Then number one detail in each paragraph that helps explain that idea. 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 whole passage?	**Rain gardens catch and soak up rainwater, reducing runoff after storms.**
2	How does the detail about pavement in paragraph 1 help explain why a rain garden is useful?	**Water cannot sink through pavement, so it runs toward drains. A rain garden gives it ground where it can soak in.**
3	Which two details in paragraph 2 show how a rain garden slows water down?	**Its low spot catches water, and the garden holds it while it slowly sinks into the soil.**
4	How do the details about soil and roots in paragraph 3 support the main idea?	**The soil traps some dirt, and roots help water soak in. These details show what happens to water when a rain garden catches it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school library helps students find books they want to read. (1) The shelves have books about animals, sports, and space. (2) A librarian can help students find books on a topic.

Accept a main idea about how rain gardens catch, slow, or absorb runoff. For the open task, look for one clear main idea and two numbered details that support it.