Follow the Rain

Notice how sections help explain an informational topic.

4.W.2.a "Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include text features that support comprehension for the reader."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, then circle each section heading to see how the information is organized.

How a Rain Garden Works

1. **What Is a Rain Garden?** A rain garden is a shallow dip in the ground filled with plants. It catches rainwater that runs off roofs, sidewalks, and driveways. Instead of rushing into a street drain, the water gathers in the garden for a while. A rain garden is not a pond. Between storms, its surface often looks like an ordinary flower bed.

2. **Where Does the Water Go?** After a storm, water sinks through the garden's loose soil. Tiny spaces between bits of soil let water move downward. Some water reaches deeper ground, while some is taken up by plant roots. If a storm brings more water than the garden can hold, extra water may flow away. The garden helps slow the rush of runoff.

3. **Plants Do More Than Look Pretty** A rain garden needs plants that can handle both wet and dry days. Their roots help keep the soil in place when water moves through it. Flowers can also offer nectar to bees and butterflies. People often choose plants that grow naturally in their area. These plants can support local insects while the garden handles rain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence introduces the topic? Why is it helpful at the start?

2. Why do the details about spaces in the soil and plant roots belong in the same section?

3. How do the details about roots and nectar fit the third section's heading?

4. Which section heading would help you find out what happens when a storm brings too much water? Why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one informational paragraph about how a school library helps readers find books. Add a heading, introduce the topic in your first sentence, and give three related details.

ANSWER KEY

Follow the Rain

GRADE 4 · 4.W.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, then circle each section heading to see how the information is organized. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence introduces the topic? Why is it helpful at the start?	**"A rain garden is a shallow dip in the ground filled with plants." It tells readers what the whole text is about.**
2	Why do the details about spaces in the soil and plant roots belong in the same section?	**Both explain what happens to water after it enters the garden. Water moves through spaces in the soil, and roots take up some of it.**
3	How do the details about roots and nectar fit the third section's heading?	**They show two ways plants do more than look pretty: roots hold soil in place, and flowers offer nectar to insects.**
4	Which section heading would help you find out what happens when a storm brings too much water? Why?	**"Where Does the Water Go?" points to the section about how water moves, including how extra water may flow away.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Finding Books

A school library helps readers find books that match their interests. Signs on shelves show where different kinds of books belong. A reader can look in the sports section for a book about soccer. A librarian can also suggest a book based on a reader's favorite topic.

For the marking job, accept the first sentence after the first heading as the underlined introduction and all three bold headings as circled. For the writing task, look for a heading, a clear opening sentence, and three details about finding books.