Rain Garden Links

Notice how connecting phrases guide a reader through an explanation.

4.W.2.c "Link ideas within paragraphs and sections of information using grade level appropriate words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle six words or phrases that link ideas in the passage. Underline the two ideas connected by one phrase you circled.

Where Does the Rain Go?

1 Rain does not always sink into the ground where it lands. On hard surfaces, water rolls away instead. For example, rain can race across a school parking lot. Because of this, a big storm may send more water into street drains than they can carry. A rain garden gives some of that moving water another place to go.

2 First, people choose a low spot away from a building and dig a shallow bowl. They guide runoff toward it, sometimes through a small channel. Next, they add soil that lets water soak in and plant flowers and grasses that can handle both wet and dry days. Instead of rushing over pavement, the water now gathers among the plants.

3 After a storm, water slowly sinks into the soil. As a result, less water flows into street drains all at once. The plants help, too: their roots make spaces in the soil where water can move. In addition, some rain gardens offer food for bees and butterflies when their flowers bloom. In this way, one small garden can help both a neighborhood and its wildlife.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, how does "Because of this" link hard surfaces to a problem?

2. How does "First" at the start of paragraph 2 help connect the problem in paragraph 1 to the solution?

3. What two paths for rainwater does "Instead" contrast in paragraph 2?

4. In paragraph 3, what result does "As a result" connect to water sinking into the soil?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence paragraph explaining how to prepare a backpack for a rainy school day. Use "First," "Next," and "As a result," to link your steps and explain how they help.

ANSWER KEY

Rain Garden Links

GRADE 4 · 4.W.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle six words or phrases that link ideas in the passage. Underline the two ideas connected by one phrase you circled. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, how does "Because of this" link hard surfaces to a problem?	**Water rolls off hard surfaces, so a big storm may send more water into street drains than they can carry.**
2	How does "First" at the start of paragraph 2 help connect the problem in paragraph 1 to the solution?	**It introduces the first step in making a rain garden, which gives runoff another place to go.**
3	What two paths for rainwater does "Instead" contrast in paragraph 2?	**It contrasts water rushing over pavement with water gathering among the rain garden's plants.**
4	In paragraph 3, what result does "As a result" connect to water sinking into the soil?	**Less water flows into street drains all at once.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, put your papers in a waterproof folder. Next, tuck the folder inside your backpack. Then, zip the backpack and cover it with a rain cover. As a result, your papers can stay dry on the way to school.

For the marking task, accept any six phrases that clearly link ideas, such as "For example," "Because of this," "Next," and "In addition." The underlined ideas should match the meaning of the phrase the student chose.