Rain Garden Notes

Find key ideas, take notes, and write a summary.

5.W.8.a "Summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one main idea in each paragraph, then circle two details in each paragraph that you could put into notes.

Where Does the Rain Go?

1. After a hard rain, water can race across sidewalks and parking lots. It may carry bits of soil, leaves, and litter into a storm drain. In many places, that drain leads to a nearby stream. A rain garden offers another route. It is a shallow dip in the ground, often planted near a roof or paved area, where some of the runoff can collect.

2. Water in a rain garden sinks slowly into the soil instead of rushing away all at once. The soil traps some dirt carried by the runoff. Plant roots help keep the soil in place and make spaces where water can move downward. Because the garden holds water for a short time, it can reduce the amount that reaches storm drains during a heavy shower.

3. Rain gardens need care to keep working well. People remove litter so water can enter the garden, and they pull weeds that crowd the chosen plants. During dry weeks, young plants may need watering until their roots grow deep. A rain garden cannot catch every drop from a storm, but even a small one can help protect a stream by slowing and cleaning some runoff.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Turn paragraph 1's explanation of a rain garden into one short note in your own words.

2. In one sentence, summarize what happens to rainwater in a rain garden instead of on pavement.

3. Paraphrase how soil and roots help the garden work in one sentence.

4. Summarize paragraph 3 in one sentence, including both care and a limit on what a rain garden can do.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three brief notes about how rain gardens work, why they matter, and how people care for them. Then use your notes to write a three-sentence newsletter summary in your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Rain Garden Notes

GRADE 5 · 5.W.8.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one main idea in each paragraph, then circle two details in each paragraph that you could put into notes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Turn paragraph 1's explanation of a rain garden into one short note in your own words.	**Shallow planted dip that collects some rainwater running off roofs or pavement.**
2	In one sentence, summarize what happens to rainwater in a rain garden instead of on pavement.	**The water collects for a short time and sinks into the soil rather than rushing toward a storm drain.**
3	Paraphrase how soil and roots help the garden work in one sentence.	**Soil catches some dirt, while roots hold the soil in place and help water move down.**
4	Summarize paragraph 3 in one sentence, including both care and a limit on what a rain garden can do.	**People must clear litter, pull weeds, and sometimes water young plants, but a rain garden cannot catch all the water from a storm.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Notes:
Runoff collects in a shallow planted area.
Soil slows water and traps some dirt before it reaches a stream.
People clear litter, pull weeds, and water young plants when needed.

A rain garden gives some rainwater from roofs and pavement a place to collect. As the water sinks into the soil, some dirt stays behind, and less water rushes toward storm drains and streams. Clearing litter, pulling weeds, and watering young plants when needed help the garden keep working.

Accept accurate paraphrases rather than exact wording. For the open task, look for three passage-based notes and a three-sentence summary that combines them without copying full sentences from the passage.