

Garden Claim Detectives

Find checkable facts and personal opinions in an argument about a school garden.

3.9.E.ii "distinguishing facts from opinion; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each fact and circle each opinion in the passage. A fact can be checked, while an opinion tells what someone thinks or feels.

A Garden for Our School

- ① Our school has an empty strip of ground beside the playground. It gets sunlight for most of the day. Garden plants can include flowers and vegetables. Plants need sunlight, water, air, and space to grow. The garden would give students a place to observe insects, roots, and leaves during science lessons. I think our class should help plan it.
- ② Butterflies and bees visit flowers to drink nectar. As they move from flower to flower, they can carry pollen. This helps many plants make seeds. Native flowers provide food for pollinators. Signs near the garden can name the plants visitors see. In my opinion, watching pollinators would be the most exciting part of the project.
- ③ Building a garden takes work. Garden beds can be measured in feet or inches. Pulling weeds removes plants that compete for water and space. Young plants need water. Seeds are planted at different times of year, depending on the plant. The garden would make our playground look much better. For these reasons, I believe the school should create one.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Copy one fact from paragraph 1 that could be checked.

2 What opinion does the author state in paragraph 2? Copy it.

3 Paragraph 3 includes two opinions. Copy both opinions.

4 Is this sentence a fact or an opinion: "Native flowers provide food for pollinators"? Explain how you know.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose something your school could add or change. Write exactly three sentences, two facts that could be checked and one opinion. Label each sentence Fact or Opinion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each fact and circle each opinion in the passage. A fact can be checked, while an opinion tells what someone thinks or feels. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy one fact from paragraph 1 that could be checked.	It gets sunlight for most of the day.
2	What opinion does the author state in paragraph 2? Copy it.	In my opinion, watching pollinators would be the most exciting part of the project.
3	Paragraph 3 includes two opinions. Copy both opinions.	The garden would make our playground look much better. For these reasons, I believe the school should create one.
4	Is this sentence a fact or an opinion: "Native flowers provide food for pollinators"? Explain how you know.	Fact. It can be checked with science information, and it does not tell a personal feeling or belief.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fact: A compost bin can turn fruit peels and leaves into compost. Fact: Compost can add nutrients to soil.

Opinion: I think every school garden should have a compost bin.

Accept any passage sentence that states a checkable idea as a fact. Treat statements of personal belief, preference, or judgment as opinions, including the claim that the playground would look better.