

Rain Garden Readers

Study how an informational article builds one clear idea.

5.12.B “compose informational texts, including brief compositions that convey information about a topic, using a clear central idea and genre characteristics and craft;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the central idea. Circle three details that support it, and number the sequence words or phrases that help explain the information.

Rain Gardens at Work

- ① After a heavy rain, water can rush off roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots. A rain garden is a shallow planted area that catches some of this runoff. Its soil and plants slow the water down. Rain gardens help neighborhoods handle rainwater while adding green space for insects, birds, and people. They can fit beside schools, homes, or community buildings.
- ② First, rainwater enters the garden through a curb opening or a sloped edge. The water spreads across the surface instead of racing along pavement. Then it sinks into layers of soil. Plant roots create tiny spaces in the ground, which can help water soak in. This process can reduce puddles and flooding after storms in some areas.
- ③ Building a rain garden takes planning. Garden designers choose a spot where water can flow safely away from a building's foundation. They select plants that can handle both wet and dry times. A rain garden does not hold water forever. Within about a day or two, the water should drain, leaving a useful habitat behind.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which sentence in paragraph 1 states the article's central idea?

2 How do two details from paragraph 2 support the central idea?

3 How does the order of the three paragraphs help the reader understand the topic?

4 What does the sentence "A rain garden does not hold water forever" clarify for the reader?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word informational article in exactly three paragraphs about a useful object, place, or process. State a clear central idea in the first paragraph, explain at least two accurate details with a sequence word, and end with a closing statement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the central idea. Circle three details that support it, and number the sequence words or phrases that help explain the information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in paragraph 1 states the article's central idea?	"Rain gardens help neighborhoods handle rainwater while adding green space for insects, birds, and people."
2	How do two details from paragraph 2 support the central idea?	The water spreads across the surface and then sinks into soil. Plant roots create spaces that help water soak in.
3	How does the order of the three paragraphs help the reader understand the topic?	The article introduces rain gardens, explains how they work, and then explains planning and drainage.
4	What does the sentence "A rain garden does not hold water forever" clarify for the reader?	It clarifies that a rain garden is not a permanent pond because the water should drain within about a day or two.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Compost bins turn fruit scraps, vegetable peels, and dry leaves into a crumbly material that can improve garden soil. Instead of sending these materials to a landfill, a compost bin keeps useful nutrients nearby. First, tiny organisms break down the scraps. Air helps this process, so a gardener turns the pile or uses a bin with openings. Adding dry leaves helps balance wet food scraps. Over time, the pile becomes dark compost. Gardeners can mix this compost into soil to help it hold water and nutrients. A compost bin is a simple tool that turns some waste into a resource.

Accept equivalent statements of the central idea and supporting details when they match the passage. For the writing task, check for three paragraphs, 75 to 100 words, an accurate topic, a clear central idea, supporting details, sequence, and a closing statement.