

Creek Clues

Use details from an informational text to support a response.

7.6.C “use text evidence to support an appropriate response;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details you could use as evidence in a response about the creek project. Number the details 1, 2, and 3.

A Creek Gets a Second Look

- ① In the high desert of eastern Oregon, a group of students noticed that a creek behind their school ran shallow and warm by late summer. The creek had straight banks, few pools, and little shade. Biologists explained that past grazing and road building had changed the streamside plants. Without thick grasses, willows, and other roots to hold soil, rainwater rushed across the ground. It carried loose dirt into the creek, making the water cloudy and filling places where fish could rest.
- ② To test a possible fix, volunteers placed bundles of branches across a small side channel. The low structures slowed the current but did not block the creek. Over the next year, water spread into nearby soil instead of racing through one narrow path. Sedges and young willows grew in wetter ground. Their roots caught more sediment, and their stems shaded parts of the water. Temperature readings taken on hot afternoons showed that the side channel became cooler than it had been before the work.
- ③ The project did not prove that every damaged creek can recover in the same way. The volunteers worked on one side channel, and weather can also affect water temperature and plant growth. Still, their observations gave the school a reason to continue studying the creek. They planned to compare shaded and unshaded sections, record temperatures each month, and watch for insects and fish. This evidence could help them decide whether to add more branch bundles or try another method, such as planting native shrubs along bare banks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** What conclusion can you make about the branch bundles? Support your response with two details from the passage.

- 2** A student says, "Plants along a creek can help protect the water." Which two details from the passage support this response?

- 3** Should the school expand the project right away? Write a response using evidence from paragraph 3.

- 4** Why is the response in paragraph 3 more careful than simply saying the project solved the creek's problems? Use one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

The school board asks whether to pay for more creek monitoring. Write a three-sentence response that states your recommendation and uses two specific details from the passage as evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details you could use as evidence in a response about the creek project. Number the details 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What conclusion can you make about the branch bundles? Support your response with two details from the passage.	The branch bundles may improve creek conditions. They slowed the current so water spread into nearby soil, and the side channel was cooler on hot afternoons after the work.
2	A student says, "Plants along a creek can help protect the water." Which two details from the passage support this response?	The passage says that roots caught more sediment and that plant stems shaded parts of the water.
3	Should the school expand the project right away? Write a response using evidence from paragraph 3.	The school should study the creek more before expanding the project because the volunteers worked on only one side channel, and weather can also affect temperature and plant growth.
4	Why is the response in paragraph 3 more careful than simply saying the project solved the creek's problems? Use one detail from the passage.	It recognizes that the project did not prove every damaged creek can recover the same way. It also notes that weather may affect the results.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school board should fund additional monitoring before expanding the project. The side channel was cooler after branch bundles slowed the current, and sedges and young willows grew in the wetter ground. Because the work occurred in only one side channel and weather can affect results, monthly comparisons will provide stronger evidence.

Accept reasonable responses that make a clear claim and accurately use relevant passage details. For the open task, accept either recommendation if the student includes two specific, accurate details and writes exactly three sentences.