

From Lot to Wetland

Track key ideas and events to paraphrase and summarize clearly.

8.6.D "paraphrase and summarize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the passage's central idea, then number 1 through 5 beside the actions that changed the parking lot into a wetland or improved it later. These marks will help you preserve meaning and order when you paraphrase and summarize.

A Parking Lot Becomes a Wetland

- ① At the edge of Harborview, a former parking lot now holds a small wetland. The change began after heavy rain repeatedly flooded nearby streets. City engineers learned that pavement sent water quickly into storm drains, which could not handle the rush. They proposed replacing part of the lot with shallow pools, native grasses, and soil that could absorb water. Before construction, workers tested the ground for pollution and removed contaminated soil. The project aimed to reduce flooding while creating habitat for birds and insects.
- ② First, crews broke up the asphalt and shaped the land so water would flow toward low areas. Next, they planted sedges, rushes, and other native plants whose roots help hold soil in place. Workers also installed a pipe that carries overflow water to the storm drain during unusually large storms. The wetland does not eliminate every flood, but it slows and stores rainfall after many storms. As the plants grew, dragonflies appeared, followed by frogs that found shelter among the grasses. Scientists recorded these changes each season.
- ③ Two years after the wetland opened, residents compared it with the old parking lot. During ordinary rain, less water collected at the intersection beside the site. The city still cleaned clogged drains and warned people about dangerous storms, because the wetland had limits. A local school helped count birds and insects, then shared its observations with the city. Based on those records, planners added more native plants along one edge. The project showed that a carefully designed natural area can serve both people and wildlife.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 In 12 to 20 words, paraphrase why the engineers proposed building a wetland.

2 Write a 20 to 30-word summary of the first paragraph.

3 In two sentences, paraphrase what crews did first and next during construction.

4 Write a 25 to 35-word summary of the final paragraph. Include both a result and a later response to that result.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 40 to 55-word summary of the complete passage. State the central idea and describe at least three actions in logical order, without adding opinions.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the passage's central idea, then number 1 through 5 beside the actions that changed the parking lot into a wetland or improved it later. These marks will help you preserve meaning and order when you paraphrase and summarize. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In 12 to 20 words, paraphrase why the engineers proposed building a wetland.	Engineers wanted a wetland because paved land sent rainwater too fast into drains, causing street flooding.
2	Write a 20 to 30-word summary of the first paragraph.	Flooding led Harborview to replace part of a parking lot with an absorbent wetland that protects nearby streets and wildlife.
3	In two sentences, paraphrase what crews did first and next during construction.	Crews removed the asphalt and created low places to collect water. They then put in native plants and an overflow pipe for very large storms.
4	Write a 25 to 35-word summary of the final paragraph. Include both a result and a later response to that result.	After the wetland opened, ordinary rainfall caused less intersection flooding, though city precautions remained necessary. Community observations led planners to add plants, demonstrating benefits for residents and wildlife.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Harborview transformed part of a flooding-prone parking lot into a wetland that helps people and wildlife. After testing and cleaning the soil, crews shaped low areas, planted native vegetation, and installed an overflow pipe. Later, residents and students observed reduced flooding and growing habitat, guiding added plantings.

Accept accurate paraphrases that use the student's own wording while keeping the original meaning. Summaries should state the main idea, include important details in logical order, and leave out minor details or opinions.