

Safety Steps First

Read how scientists protect themselves, others, and investigation materials.

5.1.C “demonstrate safe practices and the use of safety equipment during classroom and field investigations as outlined in Texas Education Agency-approved safety standards;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each safe action in the passage. Circle each item of safety equipment so you can see how safe choices fit each investigation.

Soil and Garden Investigations

- ① On a class investigation of soil, Maya begins before any tools touch the sample. She listens to the teacher's directions, ties back long hair, and puts on safety goggles. She checks that her workspace is clear and dry. When she uses a hand lens, she holds it carefully over the soil tray. She never tastes, smells closely, or rubs soil in her eyes.
- ② Outside, the team plans a small insect observation beside the school garden. They stay with their group and walk, rather than run, on the path. Each student wears closed-toe shoes to protect feet from sticks and uneven ground. They observe insects without touching nests or animals. If a student sees poison ivy or an unknown object, the student steps away and tells the teacher instead of picking it up.
- ③ At the end of either investigation, students return tools to their proper places and leave samples only where the teacher directs. They tell the teacher right away about a spill, broken tool, or injury. Then they wash their hands with soap and water before touching food or leaving the area. These steps protect students, classmates, materials, and the investigation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two safety steps does Maya take before she begins working with the soil sample?

2 Why do students wear closed-toe shoes during the garden observation?

3 What should a student do after seeing poison ivy or an unknown object outside?

4 Name two things students must report to the teacher right away at the end of an investigation.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence safety plan for a class investigation of fallen leaves on the playground. Include one piece of safety equipment, one safe action, and what you would do if you found an unknown object.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each safe action in the passage. Circle each item of safety equipment so you can see how safe choices fit each investigation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two safety steps does Maya take before she begins working with the soil sample?	She listens to the teacher's directions, ties back her long hair, and puts on safety goggles. Any two of these steps are correct.
2	Why do students wear closed-toe shoes during the garden observation?	They protect students' feet from sticks and uneven ground.
3	What should a student do after seeing poison ivy or an unknown object outside?	The student should step away and tell the teacher, not pick up the object.
4	Name two things students must report to the teacher right away at the end of an investigation.	A spill, a broken tool, or an injury. Any two are correct.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would wear closed-toe shoes and gloves while collecting fallen leaves. I would walk with my group and keep the leaves away from my face. If I found an unknown object, I would step away and tell the teacher.

Accept equivalent safe practices that match the passage, such as reporting a spill or avoiding contact with unknown objects. For the open response, look for three sentences that include equipment, a safe action, and an appropriate response to an unknown object.