

Garden Water Choice

Follow a group as it solves a community problem.

3.16.B “use problem-solving and decision-making processes to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem, number the three options, circle the chosen solution, and box the evidence that tells whether the solution worked.

A Garden Needs Water

- ① At Oak Street Community Garden, the third-grade helpers found a problem. The rain barrel was empty by lunchtime, so several new plants could not be watered. Maya wrote the problem on a clipboard. Then she and her group gathered information. They asked the garden leader how much water was left, checked the weather report, and counted the plants that needed water.
- ② The group listed three options. They could carry water from the school sink, wait for rain, or use the garden hose for ten minutes. Carrying water would work right away, but it would take many trips. Waiting for rain would save water, but the plants might dry out. The hose was quick, but the group needed permission because the school pays for its water.
- ③ After considering the advantages and disadvantages, the group chose the hose. The garden leader gave permission and showed them how to turn it off tightly. Two students watered the thirsty plants for ten minutes, while others checked that water stayed near the roots. The next morning, the plants looked healthy, and the barrel had collected rain overnight. The group decided their solution had worked.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem did the garden helpers identify? Name two kinds of information they gathered.

2 What were the group's three options for watering the plants?

3 What was one advantage and one disadvantage of using the garden hose?

4 How did the group carry out its solution, and what evidence showed that it worked?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Think of a small problem in your classroom or school. Write six sentences that identify the problem, tell information you would gather, list options, explain one advantage and disadvantage, choose and carry out a solution, and tell how you would check whether it worked.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the problem, number the three options, circle the chosen solution, and box the evidence that tells whether the solution worked. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem did the garden helpers identify? Name two kinds of information they gathered.	The rain barrel was empty, so new plants could not be watered. They checked how much water was left, checked the weather report, and counted plants that needed water.
2	What were the group's three options for watering the plants?	Carry water from the school sink, wait for rain, or use the garden hose for ten minutes.
3	What was one advantage and one disadvantage of using the garden hose?	An advantage was that the hose was quick. A disadvantage was that the group needed permission because the school pays for water.
4	How did the group carry out its solution, and what evidence showed that it worked?	Two students watered the plants with the hose for ten minutes, while others kept water near the roots. The next morning, the plants looked healthy, so the group decided the solution worked.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our classroom pencils are often missing at math time. I would count the pencils and ask classmates where they usually leave them. We could keep a labeled pencil cup, ask students to label pencils, or borrow pencils from another room. A labeled pencil cup is easy to use, but it might become messy. I would choose the labeled pencil cup and place it near the math supplies. After one week, I would count the pencils again to see if fewer were missing.

Accept answers that accurately identify the passage details. For Your Turn, accept reasonable school problems and solutions that include each decision-making step, including a way to evaluate the result.