Bird Water Plan

Study how an informational piece selects and orders useful details.

3.W.2.A.ii "Engage in writing as a process to compose a well-developed paragraph. This includes: Developing, selecting, and organizing ideas relevant to topic, audience,purpose, and genre."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph, circle details that support it, and draw a box around words that show order.

Make a Bird Water Station

1. On hot days, birds need clean water to drink and bathe. You can make a simple bird water station for your yard or school garden. Choose a shallow dish with a rough bottom so birds can stand safely. Place it where you can see it from a window, but keep it away from places where cats may hide. This small station can help local birds.

2. First, rinse the dish and fill it with only a little fresh water. Deep water can be hard for small birds to use. Next, set a flat rock in the dish. The rock gives tiny birds a place to perch, and it helps insects climb out. Do not add soap, food coloring, or salt. Clean water is the best choice for the birds.

3. Check the station each day, especially when the weather is warm. Pour out old water, rinse the dish, and add fresh water. In winter, bring the dish inside if the water freezes. Tell an adult if you notice a cracked dish or an animal that seems hurt. By caring for the station, you give birds a safer place to visit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What main idea do the first and last sentences of paragraph 1 build?

2. Who is the likely audience for this piece? Use words from the passage to support your answer.

3. How does paragraph 2 organize its details? Name the two order words and tell what each step says to do.

4. Why does paragraph 3 come after paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one informational paragraph of 5 or 6 sentences for classmates. Explain how to care for one useful outdoor item at school, using a topic sentence, three relevant details in clear order, and a closing sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Bird Water Plan

GRADE 3 · 3.W.2.A.ii

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph, circle details that support it, and draw a box around words that show order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main idea do the first and last sentences of paragraph 1 build?	**A simple bird water station can help local birds.**
2	Who is the likely audience for this piece? Use words from the passage to support your answer.	**People, especially students, who want to make a bird water station in a yard or school garden.**
3	How does paragraph 2 organize its details? Name the two order words and tell what each step says to do.	**It uses "First" for rinsing and filling the dish with a little fresh water, and "Next" for setting a flat rock in the dish.**
4	Why does paragraph 3 come after paragraph 2?	**Paragraph 2 explains how to set up the station, and paragraph 3 explains how to care for it afterward.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To care for the school rain gauge, keep its opening clear. First, check that leaves and twigs are not blocking the top. Next, read the water level after a storm and write it in the class chart. Then, empty the gauge so it is ready for the next rain. Careful checks help the gauge measure rain correctly.

Accept answers that identify the audience as people who want to help birds, with support from the yard or school garden detail. For the open response, accept another outdoor item if the paragraph has 5 or 6 sentences, a clear topic, three ordered relevant details, and a closing sentence.