

Hold the Soil

See how plants protect soil from moving.

2.8.c “plants can help reduce the impact of wind and water.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells how plants help stop soil from moving. Circle the words **wind** and **water** so you can compare their effects.

Plants Protect the Ground

- ① After a hard rain, water can carry loose soil downhill. This is called erosion. Wind can also lift dry soil and move it. When soil leaves a garden or field, plants may have trouble growing there.
- ② Plant roots hold soil in place like many tiny hands. Grass, flowers, and bushes make a cover over the ground. Their stems and leaves slow wind near the soil. This gives wind less power to pick up dirt.
- ③ Along a stream, plant roots can help keep the bank from washing away. Leaves and stems slow rainwater as it moves across land. Farmers may plant rows of grass between fields and waterways to help keep soil out of the water.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can plant roots help soil along a stream?

2 How do leaves and stems help when rainwater moves across land?

3 What can wind do to dry soil, and what plant parts can slow the wind near the soil?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A windy playground hill has loose dirt. Write 3 sentences explaining what plants you would add and how they would help protect the soil.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells how plants help stop soil from moving. Circle the words **wind** and **water** so you can compare their effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can plant roots help soil along a stream?	Plant roots help keep the stream bank from washing away.
2	How do leaves and stems help when rainwater moves across land?	They slow the rainwater.
3	What can wind do to dry soil, and what plant parts can slow the wind near the soil?	Wind can lift and move dry soil. Plant stems and leaves can slow the wind near the soil.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would plant grass and bushes on the playground hill. Their roots would hold the dirt in place. Their stems and leaves would slow the wind near the soil.

Accept any reasonable plant choice and an accurate explanation that roots hold soil or that plant cover, stems, and leaves reduce the effects of wind or water. Students may use different wording from the passage.