READING COMPREHENSION • YEAR 6

Non-Fiction Text Retrieval and Inference

Name _____ **Date** _____

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions. For inference questions, explain your thinking and use evidence from the text.

READ THE TEXT

Rain gardens: a small space with a big job

When rain falls on roofs, paths and car parks, very little can soak through the hard surfaces. Water rushes towards drains, carrying grit and tiny amounts of oil with it. During a heavy shower, drains may fill faster than water can flow away. A rain garden is a shallow, planted dip designed to catch some of this runoff.

At Brookfield Primary, pupils and grounds staff made a rain garden beside the car park. They loosened the compacted soil and planted native sedges, wildflowers and shrubs. In a downpour, the dip may briefly fill with water. It then filters through the soil and drains away gradually, often within a few hours. The garden is designed to dry out between storms, so it is not a pond.

Plant roots create channels in the soil and help hold it in place. Leaves slow falling rain, while the soil filters some of the dirt from the water. The flowers attract bees, and birds feed on the seeds or shelter among the stems. During the first summer, volunteers watered the young plants each week. By the second year, the plants were established and needed much less extra water.

Answer the questions

USE COMPLETE SENTENCES WHERE YOU CAN

1. Which three types of hard surfaces are mentioned as places rain can fall?

2. What might water carry with it as it rushes towards drains?

3. Where did the pupils and grounds staff make their rain garden?

4. What happens to water in the garden during a downpour, and how long does it often take to drain away?

5. Give two details from the passage that show how the rain garden can support wildlife.

6. Why might a rain garden reduce pressure on drains during heavy rain? Use two details from the text to support your answer.

7. What can you infer about the plants after their first summer? Support your idea with evidence from the passage.