



## RI.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

## RI.3.2

Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

## RI.3.4

Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 3 topic or subject area*.

Read this passage and then answer the questions that follow.

## Making Good Use of Garbage

Adapted from Vermicomposting <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/explore/reduce/worms.htm>

- 1 You can recycle many things you use—even garbage!
- 2 Worms can turn our old food into plant food. It's called vermicomposting.
- 3 Vermicomposting can be fun, but it is also good for our planet!

## Fun Worm Facts!

- 4 • Red worms may live for up to 4.5 years when they are kept for vermicomposting (compared to 1 year in the wild), and will grow to a length of up to 3 inches.
- 5 • Red worms can live in a wide range of temperatures. They're happiest from 55°F to 70°F but can handle 45°F to 80°F.
- 6 • Red worms can reproduce quickly in confinement. Their population may double or triple in 1 year.

## How Do You Vermicompost?

- 7 **Step 1** Make a dark house for the worms to live in. Use a wooden or plastic bin or other nonmetal container. A bin 1.5 feet high by 2 feet deep by 3 feet wide is a good size for a household. Make drain holes near the bottom.
- 8 **Step 2** Fill the bin with moist bedding. Bedding can be shredded paper or newspaper, leaves, straw, peat moss, or sawdust. Make sure the bedding is kept very moist, like a sponge. Change the bedding once or twice a year.
- 9 **Step 3** Feed the worms.  
Yes! Fruit, vegetables, coffee grounds, bread, leaves  
No! Milk, oil, eggs, meat, fat
- 10 **Step 4** Dig a hole in the bedding, dump the food in, and cover it up with bedding. Pick a new spot each time you add food.
- 11 **Step 5** Keep the worms damp and warm. Add water if the bedding feels dry, but make sure that the excess water can drain away. Cover the bin with plastic or a tarp during freezing weather.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** This question has two parts. Answer Part A first. Then answer Part B.

**Part A** What do red worms need to live and grow?

- A** water pools
- B** damp bedding
- C** strong sunlight
- D** freezing temperatures

**Part B** Which sentence from the passage supports your answer to Part A?

- A** Pick a new spot each time you add food.
- B** Cover the bin with plastic or a tarp during freezing weather.
- C** Make sure the bedding is kept very moist, like a sponge.
- D** Use a wooden or plastic bin or other nonmetal container.



### Question 1

Informational texts sometimes have subheads that tell you what each section of text is about. Use the subheads when you go back into the text to find answers. For this question, details about what red worms need to live and grow will most likely be found in the section "How Do You Vermicompost?"

continued

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Question 2

A summary is a retelling of the text in a few sentences. When you summarize, you use only the most important details. You can cross out any sentence choices that have details that are not very important and would not be included in a summary.



## Question 3

For vocabulary questions, reread the sentences in the text around the word, and try to decide what the word means using clues from these sentences. Then check the answer choices and see if one of the choices matches your answer.

2. Choose three sentences that would be included in a summary of "Making Good Use of Garbage." Number them in the correct order.
- You have to change their bedding at least once a year.
  - Worms are very good to use for fishing and are good for the Earth, but they do not live long in the wild.
  - They need to be covered with a tarp during cold weather.
  - Make a box using plastic or wood, but be sure to stay away from metal containers.
  - Vermicomposting is using worms to recycle food waste into plant food.
  - Worms can be fed fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, and bread, but they should not be fed meat, eggs, or milk.
  - They can live in damp shredded newspaper, sawdust, or leaves.
  - Worms need a warm, dark place with moist bedding and food so that they can grow.

3. Read the sentence from "Making Good Use of Garbage."

Their population may double or triple in 1 year.

What is the definition of the word population?

- A the years of life
- B the number of beings
- C the length of something
- D the size of a certain space

