

Name: _____

How Gardens Grow: The Life of a Vegetable Patch

A vegetable garden is a special area where people grow plants like tomatoes, beans, and carrots. To start a garden, you plan what to plant and where to put the seeds. Seeds are placed in the ground and covered with soil. During the early days, seeds need water and sunlight to grow strong.

Gardeners spend hours taking care of their plants. They pull weeds that grow against the vegetables and check for bugs or birds that might eat the crops. Watering, weeding, and watching for problems help the plants become healthy. When the vegetables are ready, gardeners harvest them to eat or share.

A garden needs care and attention to do its best. Hard work in the garden leads to tasty, fresh food and a complete feeling of pride.



Student Name: _____

Date: _____

How Gardens Grow: The Life of a Vegetable Patch

A vegetable garden is a special area where people (9)
grow plants like tomatoes, beans, and carrots. To (17)
start a garden, you plan what to plant and where (27)
to put the seeds. Seeds are placed in the ground (37)
and covered with soil. During the early days, (45)
seeds need water and sunlight to grow strong. (53)
Gardeners spend hours taking care of their plants. (61)
They pull weeds that grow against the vegetables (69)
and check for bugs or birds that might eat the (79)
crops. Watering, weeding, and watching for (85)
problems help the plants become healthy. When the (93)
vegetables are ready, gardeners harvest them to (100)
eat or share. (103)
A garden needs care and attention to do its best. (113)
Hard work in the garden leads to tasty, fresh food (123)
and a complete feeling of pride. (129)

Comprehension Questions:

Literal Question:

What do gardeners do to take care of their plants?

Answer:

They water, weed, and watch for problems.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Inferential Question:

Why might gardeners feel proud after taking care of a garden?

Answer:

They worked hard and grew healthy food.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Vocabulary Question:

What does "harvest" mean in this passage?

Answer:

To pick vegetables when they are ready.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Notes:

Scoring Guide

Text Level: F&P GRL Q Grade Level: 4 Word Count: 129

Total Words Read: _____

Errors: _____

WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM) _____

WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade level

Prosody: 1 2 3 4

Comprehension: _____ / 3 correct

How to Administer the Fluency Passage Assessment

Assess Oral Reading Fluency

- Give the student a copy of the passage. **Set a timer or stopwatch for 1 minute.**
- Ask the student to begin reading. As the student reads aloud, assess prosody and mark errors and self-corrections on the evaluation copy using the following guides.
- **Stop the student when one minute has passed.** Take note of the last word the student read.
- Score the passage on the evaluation copy according to the **Scoring Guide**. Use the following chart to compare grade level norms for words correctly read per minute.

Marking Conventions	
Attempted Word = Substitution Error	✓ = Accurate Word Reading
^ = Insertion Error	Attempted Word S/C = Self Correction
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
T = Intervention Error (telling student the word)	

Prosody Rubric	1	2	3	4
Expression and Volume	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression
Phrasing	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing
Smoothness	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident
Pace	too slow or too fast	uneven pace	generally appropriate pace	consistent, conversational pace

Grade Level Norms (WCPM) *							
Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
First	0 - 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	Fourth	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
Second	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	Fifth	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
Third	50 - 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	Sixth	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

* Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

Fluency Builder: How Gardens Grow: The Life of a Vegetable Patch

Passage Details

Grade Level: 4

Reading Level: F&P GRL Q

Word Count: 129

High-Frequency Words

against, area, become, birds, complete

Suggestions for Use

Increase Exposure to High-Frequency Words

- Before reading, introduce the list of high-frequency words in the passage.
- Find the words in the passage. Highlight or underline the words.

Illustrate and Label Extension Activity

- Have students draw and label items mentioned in the passage.

Link to Writing or Discussion

- Encourage knowledge transfer and personal connection by asking:
"Describe a time you helped a plant grow."
"Why is it important to take care of a garden?"

Use for Repeated Readings

Day 1: Teacher reads aloud, then echo read

Day 2: Partner reading

Day 3: One-minute fluency timing and WCPM tracking

Day 4: Performance reading (with expression!)