Year 4 reading comprehension

Keeping pond water clean

Non-fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

A small garden pond is a home for living things, not just a bowl of water. Plants, insects and other animals can all depend on it. Caring for a pond means thinking about what enters the water.

Leaves that fall into a pond can build up on the bottom. As they break down, they add material to the water. Removing some fallen leaves can help prevent a thick layer from forming. A net should be used gently so that animals are not caught or disturbed.

Pond plants can provide shade and shelter. However, covering the whole surface with plants would leave little open water. A mixture of planted areas and clear spaces gives different living things different places to use.

Soap and cleaning liquids should be kept away from a pond. A container that looks clean may still hold traces of a chemical. Use equipment set aside for the pond rather than a bucket recently used for washing a floor. Small choices around the edge can affect the water inside.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. Where can fallen leaves build up?

A. Only above the water
B. Inside a clean bucket
C. Under the garden fence
D. On the bottom of the pond

2. What can pond plants provide?

A. New gardening equipment
B. Soap and cleaning liquid
C. A dry path across the pond
D. Shade and shelter

3. What does “traces” mean in the last paragraph?

A. Drawings on paper
B. Large empty spaces
C. Small amounts left behind
D. Footprints in the soil

4. Why should a net be used gently?

A. To avoid catching or disturbing pond animals
B. To make leaves sink faster
C. To cover the whole surface
D. To scrub chemicals from the water

5. Why might a floor-washing bucket be unsuitable?

A. It would always be too small
B. It might still contain cleaning chemicals
C. It would make the water colder
D. It could not hold leaves

6. What is the main purpose of this passage?

A. To describe how to build a swimming pool
B. To tell a story about a lost net
C. To persuade readers to remove every plant
D. To explain simple ways to care for pond water

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. D. On the bottom of the pond

The second paragraph says leaves can build up on the bottom.

2. D. Shade and shelter

The third paragraph identifies shade and shelter as benefits of plants.

3. C. Small amounts left behind

A container may retain a small amount of a chemical even when it looks clean.

4. A. To avoid catching or disturbing pond animals

A net should be used gently so animals are not caught in it or disturbed.

5. B. It might still contain cleaning chemicals

The text warns that traces can remain in equipment previously used for cleaning.

6. D. To explain simple ways to care for pond water

Each paragraph explains a practical choice that affects a garden pond.

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