

Name: _____

Date: _____

The School Garden Surprise

Mrs. Carter's third-grade class was excited about the new school garden. The students spent several weeks planting seeds in small garden beds behind the school. They planted tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, and sunflowers. Every morning, different students took turns watering the plants.

At first, nothing seemed to happen.

"Are we doing something wrong?" asked Olivia.

Mrs. Carter smiled. "Plants take time to grow," she explained. "We need patience."



A few days later, tiny green sprouts pushed through the soil. "They're growing!" shouted Ethan. The class carefully measured the plants each week and recorded their heights in science journals. Soon, the sunflowers became the tallest plants in the garden. Their bright yellow petals attracted bees and butterflies.

One Friday morning, the students noticed something strange. Several tomatoes were missing. "Maybe someone picked them," said Ethan. The class searched the garden for clues. Near the tomato plants, Olivia spotted small footprints in the dirt. "They look like animal tracks," she said.

The next day, Mrs. Carter set up a motion-activated camera near the garden. When the class checked the camera on Monday, they finally solved the mystery. A raccoon had visited the garden during the night! The students laughed as they watched the video. The raccoon carefully picked tomatoes and carried them away. "At least someone likes our garden," Ethan joked. To protect the vegetables, the class built a small fence around the garden beds.

By the end of summer, the garden produced baskets of fresh vegetables. The students shared them with their families and even donated some to a local food pantry. Mrs. Carter was proud of the class. "You learned about science, teamwork, and helping others," she said. Olivia nodded. "And we learned that raccoons love tomatoes!"

The School Garden Surprise

Multiple Choice

1. What did the class plant in the garden?
 - A. Apple trees
 - B. Tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, and sunflowers
 - C. Pumpkins only
 - D. Roses
2. Why was Olivia worried at first?
 - A. The plants were too tall.
 - B. Nothing was growing.
 - C. The garden had too much water.
 - D. The seeds were missing.
3. What attracted bees and butterflies?
 - A. Tomatoes
 - B. Lettuce
 - C. Carrots
 - D. Sunflowers
4. What animal was taking the tomatoes?
 - A. Rabbit
 - B. Deer
 - C. Raccoon
 - D. Squirrel
5. What is the main idea?
 - A. Gardening teaches responsibility and teamwork.
 - B. Tomatoes grow underground.
 - C. Raccoons are dangerous.
 - D. Science journals are difficult.



The School Garden Surprise

Short Answer

6. How did the students discover what was taking the tomatoes?

7. What did the class do to protect the garden?

8. How did the students help others?

Vocabulary

A. hints B. to give to others C. brought attention to D. waiting calmly

9. patience _____ 10. donated _____ 11. attracted _____ 12. clues _____

Cause & Effect

13. **Cause:** The students watered the plants. **Effect:** _____

14. **Cause:** Tomatoes were disappearing. **Effect:** _____

Sequence

15. Number the events in order from 1–4.

_____ The class watched the camera video.

_____ Seeds were planted.

_____ A fence was built.

_____ Tiny sprouts appeared.



The School Garden Surprise

Writing and Thinking

16. Which trait best describes the class?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| A. Selfish | B. Patient |
| C. Mean | D. Careless |

Explain:



17. Why is teamwork important in a garden project?

18. If you could grow one thing in a school garden, what would it be and why?

ANSWER KEY

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ANSWER KEY

Short Answer

6. How did the students discover what was taking the tomatoes?

They used a motion-activated camera.

7. What did the class do to protect the garden?

They built a fence.

8. How did the students help others?

They donated vegetables to a food pantry.

Vocabulary

A. hints B. to give to others C. brought attention to D. waiting calmly

9. patience D 10. donated B 11. attracted C 12. clues A

Cause & Effect

13. **Cause:** The students watered the plants.

Effect: Plants grew.

14. **Cause:** Tomatoes were disappearing.

Effect: They investigated.

Sequence

15. Number the events in order from 1–4.

3 The class watched the camera video.

1 Seeds were planted.

4 A fence was built.

2 Tiny sprouts appeared.



ANSWER KEY

Writing and Thinking

16. Which trait best describes the class?

- A. Selfish
- B. Patient
- C. Mean
- D. Careless

Explain:



Answers vary.

17. Why is teamwork important in a garden project?

Answers vary.

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