

Name: _____ Date: _____ Group: _____

READING SCIENCE

On the Job With Dad

Lexile 750L

- 1 My father works as a landscape designer. He helps people choose plants and decorations for their yards and gardens. He finds plants that will grow well in that area, and in the sun or the shade.
- 2 I help my father at work. It's fun being outside. I dig the holes for the new plants, and he pays me \$10 at the end of the day.
- 3 Last weekend, we went to the soil supply store. It was my first time visiting. There were at least two dozen huge mounds of soil. Each of the soils are different and each comes from a different location. The soil is bulldozed out of the ground at its source and transported to the soil supply store in a dump truck. Landscape designers and gardeners and construction teams go to the store to buy the type of soil that is needed.
- 4 Some of the mounds of soil were gray or brown. Others were red or had a green tint. Some were mostly gravel, while others were mostly clay or sand.
- 5 "I don't understand," I said to my Dad. "Why do we need to have so many different types of soil? Isn't it all just dirt?"
- 6 My father smiled and said, "You might think so, but each type of soil is different because of where it was formed. Remember when you were flying to see your Aunt Jane in Atlanta? You looked out of the airplane window and said the earth looked red. That is because the soil in Atlanta has a lot of clay in it."
- 7 Dad pointed to a mound of soil that was dark brown, almost black. "Do you see that very dark soil? That comes from an area where many plants have grown, died, and decomposed. It has many of the nutrients plants need to grow. This type of soil would be best for flower and vegetable gardens."
- 8 "Some soil is light and sandy," Dad continued. "I might use sandy soil under playground equipment. It helps cushion falls. I wouldn't want a child to fall on hard-packed clay. I might also use sandy soil for customers who want their yards to have a desert feel. I have to find the right soil for each job."



READING SCIENCE

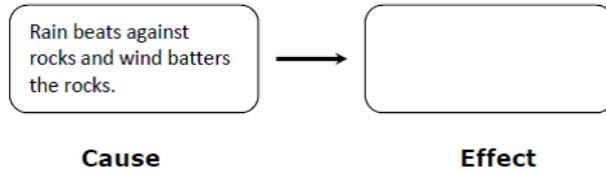
- 9 “Why are all of the soils so different?” I asked. “My teacher said soil is mostly broken-down rock.”
- 10 My father answered, “That's true, but not all rocks are the same. Rain and wind break down different types of rock to create the different types of soil. The black soil we saw on vacation in Hawaii was formed from black volcanic rocks. We don't have that kind of soil here because there is not any volcanic rock.”
- 11 I might become a landscape designer like my father if I keep learning about soil, rocks, and landscapes.

READING SCIENCE

- 1 What is the main idea of the passage?
- A It is hard work to become a landscape designer.
 - B There are many different types of soil.
 - C It can be fun to go to work with a parent.
 - D Soil is made from rock.
-
- 2 Which of these could be formed into a mound (paragraph 3)?
- A Water
 - B Eggs
 - C Salt
 - D Milk
-
- 3 Which type of soil should be used to grow flowers?
- A Red clay soil
 - B Dark brown soil
 - C Sandy soil
 - D Soil with pebbles

READING SCIENCE

4 Which phrase would go in the empty box?



- A The rocks break down into small pieces which form soil.
 - B The rocks stick together to form larger rocks.
 - C The rain and the wind cannot affect the rocks.
 - D Flowers grow out of the rocks.
-

What is something a student might be able to tell about soil from looking at it?

- 5
- A How much it would cost
 - B How much would be needed for a flower pot
 - C How old it is
 - D What type of rock it came from