Summarizing informational text

Summarize a Limited Comparison

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review Keep the main ideas and essential details. Use your own words. Leave out opinions and small details that do not explain the whole text.

Example A class sorted tools, labeled boxes and assigned helpers. Summary: the class organized its supplies and made a plan to keep them ready.

Read the garden team's comparison. Preserve both approaches and the limits of this short trial. Different concise summaries are valid if they remain accurate.

One Garden, Two Watering Plans

[1] A school garden team needed a watering routine that student helpers could manage during project time. For a short trial, two helpers watered one group of planters by hand, while two others used refillable bottles set in another group. Everyone recorded the time spent and checked each planter at the end of the period.

[2] The hand-watering team finished quickly but had to return when one planter was missed. The bottle team spent longer setting up, then discovered that one opening was blocked. Both groups corrected their problems. At the week's meeting, their notes described green leaves in both groups and different kinds of work for the helpers.

[3] The team did not name a winner. The trial was brief, and the notes did not show which routine would work best throughout a season. Instead, members made a shared checking list and decided to continue observing both approaches before choosing a regular plan.

1. State the shared purpose of the two approaches and one important difference in the work they required.

2. Repair this draft: 'Bottles always water school gardens better than people can.'

3. Write a 35-50-word summary that includes the comparison and the team's decision.

4. Why should a summary keep the decision to continue observing instead of ending with the green leaves?

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Responses and feedback: Summarize a Limited Comparison

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

1. Both approaches aimed to create a manageable watering routine. Hand watering was initially quick but missed a planter, while bottle watering required more setup and a blocked-opening check.

Reasoning: First identify the team's stated goal. Then compare the recorded work rather than assuming that green leaves make one approach better than the other.

2. The short trial revealed different tasks and problems in hand watering and bottle watering, but it did not establish which routine would work best over a season.

Reasoning: First remove the universal claim and the unsupported winner. Then replace them with the recorded comparison and the passage's explicit limit on the trial.

3. A school garden team compared hand watering with refillable bottles, finding different setup and checking needs in each approach. Because the brief trial did not establish a long-term winner, members created a shared checklist and planned further observations before choosing a routine.

Reasoning: First compress the separate observations into the idea of different work needs. Then include why no winner was chosen and what the team decided next; this concise model keeps the comparison's limits.

4. The decision shows that the team considered the evidence incomplete. Ending only with green leaves could hide the remaining uncertainty about which routine to choose.

Reasoning: First distinguish a short-term observation from the team's conclusion. Then keep the continued trial because it explains the outcome and prevents an exaggerated success claim.