

Name: _____

Date: _____

Should I Care About the Grass?



Grass has roots that grow under the ground, just like trees and flowers! Plants need water to grow and stay healthy. When it rains or snows, the water goes into the ground. The roots of the grass absorb the water.

Absorption (ab-SORP-shun) means to soak up, like a sponge!

If there were no plants or grass, rainwater would run off and take dirt with it.

Runoff is when water moves quickly over the ground instead of soaking in. This can wash away the soil/dirt.

But guess what? The roots of grass hold the soil together! The roots work as a team to keep the dirt in place and stop the dirt from running away with the water.

Grass is rooted in the job of keeping the dirt together!

PART A



Absorption



No Absorption

PART B

Let's imagine we are outside!



Your teacher will pour water onto a model, acting as the rain. Your teacher will also have a tray of dirt/soil and a tray of grass. Sometimes the tray will be placed at a small incline, and sometimes it will be tilted higher. **Observe the Water!** Where does the water go? Does it absorb into the ground, or does it run off?



Draw to show what happens in each model.

- Draw to *where the water goes*.
- Draw to show if it soaks into the ground/tray (*absorption*) or moves away (*runoff*).



1

2

3

4

Talk to a peer!

PART C

Which model held the soil together the best? Had less runoff?

Circle the model with the most absorption.