

Garden Bed Mixup

PROBLEM SOLVING · LOOK CLOSELY

Casey is rinsing soil from the trowels at the school garden work day. The group already agreed to leave the pea trellis standing for Monday. Near the herb bed, a tray of tomato seedlings sits beside the compost cart. Casey notices three seedlings were planted in the shaded mint patch by mistake. The hose is coiled, the tool buckets are almost packed, and the gate is being pulled closed. Moving them now could save the plants, but the label stakes are still missing.

Study the scene and answer the questions.



1. What is about to go wrong if Casey leaves the garden as it is?
2. What was forgotten before the tools were packed?
3. What should Casey do next so the mistake does not carry over to Monday?

Responses will vary. Accept any answer the student can give a practical reason for.

Think about it: Which unfinished step would cause the biggest problem later, and why?

TEACHER NOTE

The likely problem is that the tomato seedlings were planted in the shaded mint patch instead of the intended sunny bed, and the missing label stakes make the mistake harder to fix later. A strong response says Casey should pause closing, tell the adult or group what was found, move or mark the seedlings correctly if allowed, and return tools after the fix. Accept answers that keep the garden organized and make Monday's task clear.

3andB makes printable workbooks for the same classrooms these are written for.

More free daily starters at 3andb.com/daily-starters