On the Job

Landscape Architects

Perimeter



Wendy Conklin

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Table of Contents

Landscape Architects 4

Getting Started 6

Working Hard with Hardscape 12

A Natural Look 20

Being an "Outsider" 27

Problem Solving 28

Glossary 30

Index 31

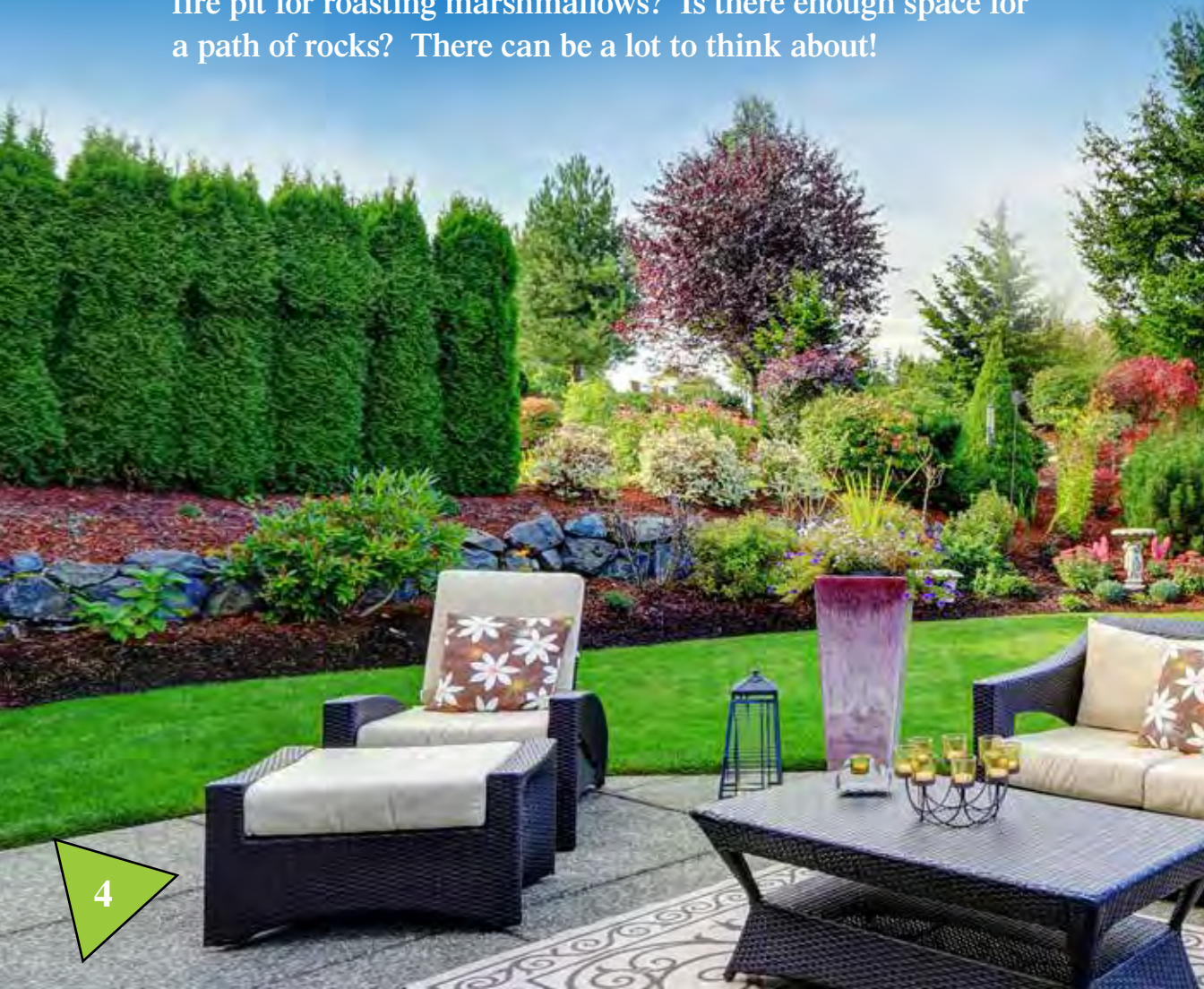
Answer Key 32

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Landscape Architects

Today, more and more families want to create living spaces outside. But it is not a matter of just bringing indoor things outdoors. They still want plants, flowers, **shrubs**, and trees.

This can be a big job. People might not know how to create these spaces themselves. What types of plants would be best? Do certain flowers attract butterflies? Can there be a stone fire pit for roasting marshmallows? Is there enough space for a path of rocks? There can be a lot to think about!



For teachers' inspection ONLY

So, people call **landscape architects** to help. Landscape architects are different than other architects. Architects design buildings. Landscape architects plan for natural areas. Need plans for a house? Call an architect. Want the backyard to be designed? That is a job for a landscape architect! They have been trained to design beautiful outdoor spaces.



A landscape architect plans an outdoor living space that combines nature with other items.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Getting Started

Once landscape architects are hired, they need to ask their **clients** about their wants and needs. Some clients may be vegetable garden gurus. They want to grow their own meals. Others may be rose garden experts. They want the best red roses in town. Still others may be barbecue masters. They need a shady spot to grill. All of them may want to walk through their yards without getting dirty feet. Landscape architects ask a lot of questions. They listen carefully. It is their job to make these outdoor dreams come true.

To do so, landscape architects need two main types of supplies. They need **softscape** and **hardscape**. Natural things are softscape. These include the plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees that will be used. Things, such as paths, rocks, walls, and stone fire pits, which are added to nature, are hardscape. Landscape architects use these elements to create perfect outdoor spaces.



All that this outdoor area is missing is food and a willing cook!

For teachers' inspection ONLY

These herbs and vegetables are almost ready to harvest.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Perimeter is the distance around a shape or figure. Imagine that a landscape architect draws a plan for a family's square vegetable garden. A rabbit fence will surround the garden. Why does the landscape architect need to know the perimeter?



For teachers' inspection ONLY

After landscape architects learn about what their clients want, they ask themselves questions. How much space is needed? What are the best materials to use? Can a client's dream fit in the space?

For help, they may call a **surveyor**. Surveyors measure land. Then, they conduct **surveys**. Most surveys are conducted when land is bought or sold. Surveys are the process of taking measurements of a property. To take a survey, a yard surveyor places tiny pins at the four corners of a yard. Then, he or she measures the distance between the pins. The distances are used to calculate the amount of land that is owned.

Other landscape architects conduct their own surveys. They may use websites to help them. These can give **aerial** photos of yards. Landscape architects can then print them. The photos can help them measure the yards.



A surveyor takes measurements.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

aerial view of a neighborhood

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Imagine that a backyard is in the shape of a rectangle. The yard survey shows that two sides are 18 feet long. The other two sides are 16 feet long. A fence will surround the backyard. What is the perimeter of this backyard? Find two ways to prove your reasoning.

