Tree Text Patterns

Compare how three texts organize information about street trees.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.5 "Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that show how each text is organized. In the margin, write chronology, cause/effect, or problem/solution beside each text.

Three Texts About Street Trees

1. Text 1, Growing a Sidewalk Tree: First, city workers choose a spot with room for roots and branches. Next, they dig a wide hole and place a young tree inside. During the first few years, crews water the tree when rain is scarce. As it grows, the tree spreads shade over the sidewalk. Eventually, pruning removes dead or unsafe branches.

2. Text 2, Why Street Trees Matter: Paved streets and buildings absorb sunlight, so neighborhoods can become hotter than nearby parks. Tree leaves block some sunlight, and water released from leaves can cool the air. Because trees make shade and cool the area, people may need less air conditioning. Their leaves also catch some tiny particles from the air, which can improve local air quality.

3. Text 3, Protecting Young Trees: Young street trees sometimes struggle because their roots have little space and their soil dries quickly. Cars or lawn equipment can also damage trunks. To solve these problems, cities can use larger planting areas, add mulch to hold moisture, and place guards around trunks. These steps help young trees survive long enough to provide shade and other benefits.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the overall structure of Text 1? Give one phrase from the text that supports your answer.

2. How do the overall structures of Text 2 and Text 3 differ?

3. Choose one signal phrase from Text 1 and one signal phrase from Text 3. What does each phrase show about the text's structure?

4. Text 1 and Text 2 both give information about street trees. How does the order of information differ in the two texts?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic connected to school or nature. Write two mini-texts about that topic, with 3 sentences in each text. Organize the first text by chronology and the second text by cause/effect, then write one sentence comparing their structures.

ANSWER KEY

Tree Text Patterns

GRADE 5 · RI.5.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show how each text is organized. In the margin, write chronology, cause/effect, or problem/solution beside each text. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the overall structure of Text 1? Give one phrase from the text that supports your answer.	**Text 1 uses chronology. "First," "Next," "During the first few years," or "Eventually" shows events in time order.**
2	How do the overall structures of Text 2 and Text 3 differ?	**Text 2 uses cause/effect, while Text 3 uses problem/solution.**
3	Choose one signal phrase from Text 1 and one signal phrase from Text 3. What does each phrase show about the text's structure?	**"First" in Text 1 signals time order. "To solve these problems" in Text 3 signals a problem followed by solutions.**
4	Text 1 and Text 2 both give information about street trees. How does the order of information differ in the two texts?	**Text 1 tells about planting and caring for a tree over time. Text 2 explains how conditions such as heat lead to effects and how trees affect the area.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text 1: First, students loosen the soil in a garden bed. Next, they plant seeds and water them. After several weeks, the plants grow leaves and flowers. Text 2: Garden plants need sunlight to make food. When tall weeds block sunlight, the plants may grow slowly. Therefore, students pull weeds so more sunlight reaches the plants. The first text follows events in time, while the second explains a cause and its effects.

Accept equivalent names for the structures, such as time order for chronology and causes and results for cause/effect. For the open task, check that both mini-texts share a topic, have three sentences each, and use the requested different structures.