Tree Ideas Connect

Notice how linking language joins facts and categories.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2c "Link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., in contrast, especially)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words, phrases, or clauses that connect one idea or category to another. Then number the links that connect ideas across different paragraphs.

How City Trees Help

(1) City trees help neighborhoods in several ways. Their leaves shade sidewalks and playgrounds, so pavement stays cooler on sunny days. Trees also slow rainwater as it falls, which can reduce puddles and runoff. In addition, roots hold soil in place near slopes. These cooling, water, and soil benefits make a single tree useful beyond its own patch of ground.

(2) However, trees in cities need care as well as space. Young trees especially need water during dry weeks because their roots are still growing. Mulch around the base helps keep moisture in the soil, but it should not touch the trunk. In contrast, a thick pile of mulch against a trunk can trap moisture and harm the bark. Care supports the benefits described above.

(3) Trees also provide homes and food for living things. For example, birds may nest in branches, while insects can feed on leaves or shelter in bark. Because different animals use different tree parts, planting several kinds of native trees can support more wildlife. Therefore, city planners often consider both human needs, such as shade, and wildlife needs when choosing where to plant.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two linking phrases in paragraph 1 add new benefits of city trees to the earlier idea?

2. How does the phrase "In contrast" connect the two mulch ideas in paragraph 2?

3. What earlier information does the last sentence of paragraph 2 connect to the idea of tree care?

4. Which phrase in paragraph 3 connects the category of human needs with the category of wildlife needs?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a school garden. Include one fact about plants and one fact about animals, and use at least two linking words or phrases to connect your ideas.

ANSWER KEY

Tree Ideas Connect

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words, phrases, or clauses that connect one idea or category to another. Then number the links that connect ideas across different paragraphs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two linking phrases in paragraph 1 add new benefits of city trees to the earlier idea?	**"also" and "In addition"**
2	How does the phrase "In contrast" connect the two mulch ideas in paragraph 2?	**It compares helpful mulch around a tree base with harmful mulch piled against the trunk.**
3	What earlier information does the last sentence of paragraph 2 connect to the idea of tree care?	**It connects tree care to the cooling, water, and soil benefits in paragraph 1.**
4	Which phrase in paragraph 3 connects the category of human needs with the category of wildlife needs?	**"both human needs, such as shade, and wildlife needs"**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school garden can grow lettuce and beans for the cafeteria. In addition, its flowers provide nectar for bees, especially in spring. Therefore, the garden can help people and pollinators.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately describe how the linking language adds, compares, gives an example, shows cause, or connects categories. For the writing task, check for exactly three sentences, accurate plant and animal facts, and at least two purposeful links.