City Tree Care

Notice how sources, details, and transitions build an explanation.

ELA.5.C.1.4 "Write expository texts about a topic using multiple sources and including an organizational structure, relevant elaboration, and varied transitions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three transition words or phrases. Circle the names of the two sources, then number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the order of the explanation.

Why City Trees Need Care

1. City trees do more than make streets look pleasant. According to the U.S. Forest Service, tree leaves cool nearby areas by providing shade and releasing water vapor. This cooling can make sidewalks and buildings less hot on sunny days. Trees also catch some rain on their leaves, which can slow water before it reaches storm drains.

2. However, trees need room and care to provide these benefits. The Arbor Day Foundation explains that roots need space for air and water. When a tree is planted beside a narrow sidewalk, its roots may be squeezed or cut during repairs. For this reason, city planners choose sites with enough soil and select tree types that fit beneath power lines.

3. These choices can help a tree live longer. In addition, residents can protect young trees by keeping lawn equipment away from their trunks and giving them water during dry weeks. Together, information from the Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation shows why planting is only the first step. Careful planning and regular care help city trees serve people for many years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What main idea does the first paragraph introduce?

2. Which source explains that tree roots need space for air and water?

3. Which transition word begins paragraph 2? What relationship does it show between paragraphs 1 and 2?

4. How does the example of a tree beside a narrow sidewalk add detail to the explanation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school improvement topic, such as adding a refill station, planting a garden, or changing recess equipment. Write a six-sentence paragraph that uses facts from two sources, includes a clear beginning and ending, gives one example, and uses at least three transition words or phrases.

ANSWER KEY

City Tree Care

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.C.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three transition words or phrases. Circle the names of the two sources, then number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the order of the explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main idea does the first paragraph introduce?	**City trees provide useful benefits, including cooling areas and slowing rainwater.**
2	Which source explains that tree roots need space for air and water?	**The Arbor Day Foundation.**
3	Which transition word begins paragraph 2? What relationship does it show between paragraphs 1 and 2?	**However. It shows a contrast between the benefits of trees and the care trees need.**
4	How does the example of a tree beside a narrow sidewalk add detail to the explanation?	**It gives a concrete example of how roots can be squeezed or cut, explaining why planners need to choose sites with enough soil.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Refillable water bottles can help students stay ready to learn. Our science textbook explains that water helps the body control its temperature. For example, a student can refill a bottle after recess instead of waiting until lunch to drink. In addition, our class survey showed that most students bring a bottle on hot days. Therefore, adding a refill station near the playground could help more students drink water. This change would give students an easy way to get water when they need it.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the passage's organization and evidence. For the open response, check for a focused topic, information from two named sources, logical order, relevant detail, and at least three varied transitions.