Words That Explain

Read how precise academic words make an explanation clear.

ELA.5.V.1.1 "Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle five academic vocabulary words that name important actions, ideas, or effects in the passage. Underline the words nearby that help you figure out each circled word's meaning.

Trees Cool City Spaces

1 On a hot summer day, city sidewalks and parking lots can become much warmer than nearby parks. Dark pavement absorbs sunlight and releases heat slowly. This change affects the local environment, especially when few trees provide shade. Scientists observe these temperature differences by placing thermometers on several surfaces at the same time. Their measurements create useful evidence.

2 Trees can reduce heat in two ways. Their leaves block some sunlight before it reaches the ground. Trees also move water from their roots to their leaves, where the water evaporates. Evaporation uses heat energy, so the air around a tree may feel cooler. This process can improve comfort for people walking or waiting outdoors.

3 Communities use this evidence when they plan new spaces. For example, a school might plant trees beside a sunny playground or add a shaded bus stop. These choices can have a positive impact because they lower surface temperatures and protect people from intense sunlight. A careful plan considers where shade is needed most and how trees will receive enough water.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, which academic word means “carefully watch or notice”? Write the word, then use it in a sentence about the scientists.

2. What evidence do scientists collect to compare temperatures? Answer in one sentence using the word evidence.

3. Use the academic word reduce in one sentence to explain one way trees cool an area.

4. In paragraph 3, impact means effect. Use impact in one sentence explaining why a shaded bus stop could matter.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences proposing one way to make a sunny school space cooler. Use at least three academic words from the passage, including evidence or impact.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Explain

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.V.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle five academic vocabulary words that name important actions, ideas, or effects in the passage. Underline the words nearby that help you figure out each circled word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which academic word means "carefully watch or notice"? Write the word, then use it in a sentence about the scientists.	**observe; Scientists observe temperature differences on several surfaces.**
2	What evidence do scientists collect to compare temperatures? Answer in one sentence using the word evidence.	**The evidence is measurements from thermometers placed on several surfaces at the same time.**
3	Use the academic word reduce in one sentence to explain one way trees cool an area.	**Trees reduce heat by blocking sunlight before it reaches the ground.**
4	In paragraph 3, impact means effect. Use impact in one sentence explaining why a shaded bus stop could matter.	**A shaded bus stop can have a positive impact because it protects people from intense sunlight.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should plant trees next to the basketball court to reduce the temperature of the pavement. This plan could have a positive impact because evidence shows that shade protects players from intense sunlight.

Accept accurate sentences that use passage vocabulary with meanings that fit the context. For Part 3, check for exactly two sentences, a clear cooling proposal, and at least three appropriate academic words, including evidence or impact.