Roofs That Work

Find the central idea and trace its supporting details.

ELA.6.R.2 "Reading Informational Text"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the passage's central idea. Then number three details that develop that idea.

Green Roofs in Cities

1 Cities contain many dark roofs that soak up sunlight and shed rain into gutters. A green roof replaces part of that bare surface with waterproof layers, soil, and hardy plants. Green roofs can help crowded cities manage heat and rainwater, but they need careful planning and care. Designers must choose plants that can survive wind, sun, and periods with little rain. A well-designed roof can safely serve both a building and the nearby city around it.

2 During a storm, rain falls on the plants and soil instead of racing at once across a smooth roof. Some water is held in the soil or taken in by plant roots. The remaining water leaves more slowly, which can reduce pressure on city drains during heavy rainfall. Plants also shade the roof surface. On hot days, that shade and the water released by plants can lower the roof's temperature. A cooler roof may reduce the energy a building uses for air conditioning.

3 Green roofs are not a solution for every building. Wet soil and plants add weight, so engineers must check whether a roof can hold the system safely. Installation costs can be higher than those for a standard roof, and workers may need to remove weeds or replace dead plants. Still, cities such as Chicago and Toronto have encouraged green roofs because the benefits can continue for years. The best projects match the roof design, local weather, and building owner's ability to care for it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What central idea does the passage develop about green roofs?

2. How does the detail about soil and plant roots support the central idea?

3. What two details explain how a green roof can help cool a building?

4. Why does the author include details about roof weight, cost, and maintenance?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence reader's note about the passage. State the central idea in your first sentence, then explain how a different supporting detail develops that idea in each of the next two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Roofs That Work

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the passage's central idea. Then number three details that develop that idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What central idea does the passage develop about green roofs?	**Green roofs can help cities manage heat and rainwater, but they require careful planning and ongoing care.**
2	How does the detail about soil and plant roots support the central idea?	**It shows that green roofs can hold some rainwater and slow the water reaching city drains.**
3	What two details explain how a green roof can help cool a building?	**Plants shade the roof surface, and water released by plants can lower the roof's temperature.**
4	Why does the author include details about roof weight, cost, and maintenance?	**These details show that green roofs are not right for every building and must be planned and cared for properly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Green roofs can improve city buildings, but they work best when people plan for their needs. Soil and plant roots hold some stormwater, so less water rushes into drains. Engineers check roof strength because wet soil and plants add weight.

Accept central ideas that include both the benefits of green roofs and the need for planning or care. Accept relevant supporting details if the student accurately explains how each detail develops the central idea.