

Rain Plan Puzzle

Study how a model explanation combines sources, details, and transitions.

ELA.8.C.1.4 "Write expository texts to explain and analyze information from multiple sources, using relevant supporting details, logical organization, and varied purposeful transitions."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that name or explain a source, and circle transitions that connect ideas. In the margin, label each paragraph as the beginning, middle, or end of the explanation.

How City Trees Manage Rain

- ① Rain that falls on streets and roofs often rushes into storm drains, carrying oil, litter, and soil toward nearby waterways. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that green infrastructure manages rain where it falls instead of sending all of it through pipes. Street trees are one kind of green infrastructure. Their leaves and branches catch some rainfall, so less water reaches pavement at once. In addition, spaces of soil around roots can absorb water, especially when they are not packed tightly.
- ② However, a tree does not solve flooding alone. The U.S. Forest Service notes that a tree canopy can intercept rain before it hits the ground, while healthy soil and roots can help water soak in. Therefore, planners pair trees with other features, such as rain gardens and permeable pavement. A report from Philadelphia's Water Department describes these features as tools that reduce combined sewer overflows, which can release diluted sewage and stormwater during heavy rain. Together, the features spread out the work of handling a storm.
- ③ Still, planting trees requires planning. The National Weather Service warns that heavy rain can cause flash flooding. For that reason, a city should choose tree species suited to local conditions, protect enough open soil, and maintain drains for major storms. The EPA source shows why trees reduce the first rush of water, while the Forest Service source explains the separate roles of canopy and roots. As a result, cities can use several connected methods rather than depend on one solution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How does paragraph 1 use the EPA source and supporting details to explain one benefit of street trees?

2 How does the Philadelphia Water Department report support the claim that a tree does not solve flooding alone?

3 What relationship does the transition "Therefore" show in paragraph 2?

4 Why does the final paragraph mention both the EPA and Forest Service sources before stating its conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write an 85-110-word expository paragraph explaining a city plan for managing stormwater. Use information from at least two named sources in the passage, include relevant details, and use at least three purposeful transitions.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that name or explain a source, and circle transitions that connect ideas. In the margin, label each paragraph as the beginning, middle, or end of the explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 use the EPA source and supporting details to explain one benefit of street trees?	It uses the EPA idea that green infrastructure manages rain where it falls, then explains that tree branches catch rainfall and soil around roots can absorb water.
2	How does the Philadelphia Water Department report support the claim that a tree does not solve flooding alone?	It shows that rain gardens and permeable pavement can reduce combined sewer overflows, so planners need other features along with trees.
3	What relationship does the transition "Therefore" show in paragraph 2?	It shows that because canopies, roots, and soil help manage rain, planners should pair trees with other stormwater features.
4	Why does the final paragraph mention both the EPA and Forest Service sources before stating its conclusion?	The writer combines the EPA evidence about reducing the first rush of water with the Forest Service evidence about canopy and roots to support using several connected methods.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, a city can plant street trees near areas where rain quickly covers pavement. The EPA explains that leaves and branches catch part of a storm, which slows the amount of water reaching streets. Additionally, the Forest Service notes that roots and healthy soil help water soak in. However, trees cannot handle every downpour, and heavy rain can cause flash flooding. Therefore, the city should also maintain storm drains and add rain gardens. This connected plan uses each feature for a different part of the problem.

Accept accurate paraphrases that connect named sources to relevant stormwater details and explain how transitions organize ideas. For the open response, look for information from at least two sources, a clear plan, logical organization, and three or more purposeful transitions.