Tree Talk

Use context to understand vocabulary across science and professional writing.

10.L.V.1.a "Acquire a range of general, academic, disciplinary, technical, and professional vocabulary through grade-level print, digital, and/or multimodal texts or content. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six words or phrases that name precise ideas used in tree inventory, science, or workplace communication. Number them 1 through 6, then write a brief nearby context clue in the margin for each one.

Mapping the City's Trees

(1) On a humid July morning, Maya joins a city tree inventory along a busy block. An inventory is a systematic record, not simply a list, so she notes each tree's species, trunk diameter, condition, and location. Her supervisor asks her to be precise because the data will guide pruning crews and future planting. Maya uses a field tablet with a geographic information system, or GIS, which links each observation to a map. A maple with a cracked limb receives an urgent maintenance code. Nearby, a healthy young oak is recorded as a candidate for protection during sidewalk repairs.

(2) Later, Maya compares the block's records with a planting plan. The plan identifies a canopy gap, an area with too little tree cover, near an apartment complex that becomes unusually hot in summer. To choose a species, the team considers drought tolerance, the ability to continue growing with limited water, and soil compaction, when packed soil leaves little space for air and water. These disciplinary terms help the team discuss biological limits clearly. The report also uses the academic word mitigate, meaning to make a harmful effect less severe. Planting several drought-tolerant trees could mitigate heat on the pavement and improve shade for pedestrians.

(3) Before leaving, Maya prepares a brief work order for the maintenance department. A work order is a professional document that tells a crew what action is needed, where it is needed, and how soon it should occur. She recommends that an arborist, a trained tree-care specialist, inspect the maple's damaged limb. She does not diagnose the tree from a distance. Instead, she records observable evidence, including the limb's crack and its position above a bus stop. Her recommendation is provisional, meaning subject to change after more evidence is gathered. Clear vocabulary allows staff members with different jobs to interpret the record consistently and respond safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the passage distinguish an inventory from a simple list?

2. What does soil compaction mean in this passage? Use the context around the term.

3. What does mitigate mean, and which result in the passage helps show its meaning?

4. Why is Maya's recommendation described as provisional?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 45 to 60 word field note about a different tree-related issue on or near your campus. Use at least three precise terms from the passage, including one professional or technical term, and include a context clue that helps a reader understand one term.

ANSWER KEY

Tree Talk

GRADE 10 · 10.L.V.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six words or phrases that name precise ideas used in tree inventory, science, or workplace communication. Number them 1 through 6, then write a brief nearby context clue in the margin for each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage distinguish an inventory from a simple list?	**An inventory is a systematic record that includes details such as species, trunk diameter, condition, and location.**
2	What does soil compaction mean in this passage? Use the context around the term.	**It means soil is packed so tightly that little space remains for air and water.**
3	What does mitigate mean, and which result in the passage helps show its meaning?	**Mitigate means make a harmful effect less severe. Planting trees could reduce heat on pavement and improve shade.**
4	Why is Maya's recommendation described as provisional?	**It may change after more evidence is gathered because an arborist still needs to inspect the damaged limb.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During lunch, I noticed a canopy gap beside the gym. Our crew should document the area in a work order, a report that directs a specific action. Because the pavement becomes hot, we could mitigate heat by planting a species with drought tolerance, the ability to grow with limited water.

Accept accurately marked vocabulary from multiple categories, such as inventory, GIS, canopy gap, drought tolerance, mitigate, work order, arborist, observable evidence, and provisional, if students provide reasonable nearby context clues. For the open response, accept varied scenarios when the word count, vocabulary use, and context clue requirements are met.