City Tree Clues

Spot main ideas, supporting details, and helpful text design.

4.T.T.2.a "Discuss and evaluate techniques used to present and design expository texts, including facts and key details used to support the main idea. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the main idea in each paragraph. Then number two facts or key details in each paragraph that support that idea.

How City Trees Help

1. Everyday Benefits: City trees do more than make streets look green. Their leaves give shade, which can keep sidewalks and buildings cooler on hot days. A mature tree can also provide homes for birds, squirrels, and insects. In crowded neighborhoods, parks and street trees give people places to walk, rest, and play. Trees are useful parts of a city.

2. A Natural Water Helper: Trees can help cities manage rainwater. During a rainstorm, tree roots soak up some water from the ground. Leaves and branches also catch falling rain. By slowing runoff, trees can help reduce puddles and soil washing away. This information gives one reason cities plant trees in places where hard surfaces send water quickly into drains.

3. Planning for Healthy Trees: Planting city trees takes careful planning. City workers choose species that can grow in local weather. They also plan for enough soil and space for roots. Without room, roots may push up sidewalks or struggle to get water. Some cities plant trees along busy roads because shade can make walking more comfortable. These details explain why planning matters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph titled “A Natural Water Helper”? Give two details that support it.

2. How do the headings help a reader understand this text?

3. Which fact from “Everyday Benefits” best supports the idea that trees help people on hot days?

4. How does the detail about roots pushing up sidewalks support the main idea of the last paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a helpful feature in a school or community. Write a heading and a three-sentence mini expository text. State its main idea in sentence 1, then give one supporting fact or key detail in sentences 2 and 3.

ANSWER KEY

City Tree Clues

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main idea in each paragraph. Then number two facts or key details in each paragraph that support that idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of the paragraph titled “A Natural Water Helper”? Give two details that support it.	**Main idea: Trees help cities manage rainwater. Supporting details: Roots soak up water, and leaves and branches catch falling rain.**
2	How do the headings help a reader understand this text?	**The headings tell the topic of each paragraph and help the reader find information about each way trees help cities.**
3	Which fact from “Everyday Benefits” best supports the idea that trees help people on hot days?	**Their leaves give shade, which can keep sidewalks and buildings cooler on hot days.**
4	How does the detail about roots pushing up sidewalks support the main idea of the last paragraph?	**It shows why city workers must plan enough space for tree roots before planting trees.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

School Composting A compost bin turns fruit peels, vegetable scraps, and leaves into material that can help soil. Keeping these scraps in a bin sends less waste to a landfill. When compost is mixed into soil, it can help the soil hold water and provide nutrients for plants.

Accept underlined main-idea sentences that match each paragraph's central point and numbered details that clearly support that point. For the open task, accept a clear heading, one main idea, and two accurate details that support it.