

Gardens Above Cities

Analyze how a writer organizes facts around several ideas.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Circle the facts and key details that support each main idea, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside the three different ideas.

Rooftop Gardens

- ① Rooftop gardens turn unused building tops into growing spaces. In crowded cities, ground-level land can be hard to find, so schools, apartments, and businesses may use roofs for plants. A rooftop garden can grow vegetables, flowers, or small trees in containers or raised beds. Before planting, builders check that the roof can safely hold soil, water, and people.
- ② These gardens can also change how a building handles heat and rain. Plants shade the roof, while moist soil can help keep the surface cooler on hot days. During a storm, soil and roots absorb some rainwater. This slows the water flowing into drains, which may reduce puddles and flooding on nearby streets. The garden does not stop all runoff, but it can manage part of it.
- ③ Rooftop gardens may provide food and homes for insects, but they need regular care. Gardeners choose plants that fit the sunlight, wind, and shallow soil on a roof. For example, herbs and leafy vegetables often grow well in containers. By presenting one idea about space, another about water, and another about plant life, this article shows several reasons rooftop gardens can matter in a city.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What main idea does the first paragraph develop? Give one key detail that supports it.

2 What main idea does the second paragraph develop? Give two facts that support it.

3 How does the author help the reader follow the article's three main ideas?

4 Why is the example of herbs and leafy vegetables useful in the third paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini article about a helpful feature at a school. Present two main ideas, include one factual detail for each idea, and use a transition such as also, for example, or because.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Circle the facts and key details that support each main idea, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside the three different ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main idea does the first paragraph develop? Give one key detail that supports it.	The first paragraph explains that rooftops can become growing spaces when land is limited. A supporting detail is that gardens can use containers or raised beds.
2	What main idea does the second paragraph develop? Give two facts that support it.	The second paragraph explains that rooftop gardens can help with heat and rain. Plants shade the roof and soil and roots absorb some rainwater.
3	How does the author help the reader follow the article's three main ideas?	The author organizes the ideas into separate paragraphs about space, heat and rain, and plant life, then names the three ideas in the final sentence.
4	Why is the example of herbs and leafy vegetables useful in the third paragraph?	It gives a specific example of plants that can grow well in rooftop containers, supporting the idea that gardeners must choose plants that fit the roof.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school garden can give students a place to study plant life. For example, students can measure seedlings each week and record changes. It also can provide a habitat for pollinators because flowering plants offer nectar.

Accept clearly stated main ideas that are supported by accurate, relevant facts or details. In the open response, look for two distinct ideas, a supporting detail for each, and a transition that connects the ideas.