When Heat Spreads

Trace how unequal protection from heat affects a community

S.9.3 "Discuss the implications of social problems for society."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two places where heat affects more than one group. Circle one reason residents face unequal risk.

More Than a Hot Day

1 On a late-August afternoon, the fictional city of Alder Creek opens a public cooling room in its community center. The heat reaches every neighborhood, but protection from it does not. Some apartments have working air conditioners, while others trap heat because their windows barely open and their roofs have little insulation. Residents who cannot afford high electric bills may avoid running the cooling units they do have. Outdoor workers also face long hours in direct sun. Unequal access to safe temperatures is more than a private inconvenience: it can affect health, work, and the services a city must provide.

2 When classrooms remain hot during the school year, students may struggle to focus, and schools may need to change schedules to protect them. A caregiver who leaves work to pick up a child can lose wages, while an employer must find someone to cover a shift. Heat illness can send more people to clinics at the same time, increasing demand on staff and emergency vehicles. These effects can spread beyond the people who first face the heat. For example, a delayed delivery from an overheated warehouse can leave a grocery store short of supplies. One problem can ripple through families, public services, and businesses.

3 The city can open cooling rooms and extend pool hours, but those services cost money and may be hard to reach without transportation. Planting shade trees can lower heat around streets over time, yet trees take years to grow and need care. City leaders must decide how to use limited funds while listening to residents whose homes and jobs put them at greatest risk. If only well-connected neighborhoods receive help, existing differences in safety may widen. A fair response looks beyond the weather itself. It asks who is exposed, who can get help, and how today's choices shape future risks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How might a hot classroom affect both a family and a workplace?

2. What does the warehouse example show about how heat can affect people who are not at the warehouse?

3. How could an increase in heat illness affect city services beyond individual patients?

4. Why might a cooling room fail to protect some residents, and what could happen if help goes only to well-connected neighborhoods?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that Alder Creek's only evening bus route is canceled. In four or five sentences, explain how this could affect two different groups and the wider community, then propose one response and one limit or cost of that response.

ANSWER KEY

When Heat Spreads

HIGH SCHOOL · S.9.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two places where heat affects more than one group. Circle one reason residents face unequal risk. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How might a hot classroom affect both a family and a workplace?	**A caregiver may leave work to pick up a child and lose wages. The employer may need someone else to cover the shift.**
2	What does the warehouse example show about how heat can affect people who are not at the warehouse?	**An overheated warehouse may delay a delivery, leaving a grocery store short of supplies.**
3	How could an increase in heat illness affect city services beyond individual patients?	**More patients arriving at once would increase demand on clinic staff and emergency vehicles.**
4	Why might a cooling room fail to protect some residents, and what could happen if help goes only to well-connected neighborhoods?	**Residents without transportation may not be able to reach the cooling room. If help goes only to well-connected neighborhoods, existing differences in safety may widen.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Workers without cars may miss evening shifts when the bus stops running. Patients who rely on the route may have trouble reaching late appointments. Local businesses could lose staff and customers, while missed care could put more pressure on clinics later. The city could restore a smaller evening route connecting jobs and medical offices. This service would cost money and might not reach every neighborhood.

Accept other passage-supported chains of effects for the short answers. For Your Turn, look for plausible effects on two groups and the wider community, plus a response with a realistic limit or cost.